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Bob Schrack receives overwhelming support in his appointment as Finance chief.

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Cabot Mantanona's \$25K extra charge approved. **PAGE 7**

Blame game on federalization



» Oversight hearing seeks greater cooperation between DHS, CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Much of the blame and criticism flying in the air at the oversight hearing in Washington, D.C. didn't come as a surprise but

Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Dr. David Gootnick of the Government Accountability Office, Gov. Felix Camacho of Guam, and Gov. Benigno Fitial of the CNMI provide testimony at yesterday's oversight hearing on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF DELEGATE MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

they further exposed the rift between CNMI and federal agencies on the implementation of the two-year-old federalization law in the Commonwealth. **See BLAME on Page 4**

Babauta: CNMI decisions led to 'much uncertainty'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tony M. Babauta, the Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs, told a congressional committee in Washington, D.C. Tuesday that the CNMI government has made policy and legislative decisions that have led to much uncertainty

See BABAUTA on Page 4

Tinian cop, 2 others nabbed in anti-meth operation

» Ogomoro lambastes DEA for 'credit grabbing'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Tinian police officer and two other

men were arrested yesterday in a joint Tinian police and Drug Enforcement Administration operation against meth trafficking but the venture has upset a Department of Public Safety official, who accused the DEA of credit-grabbing.

RELATED NEWS

6 DPS personnel test positive for marijuana use. **PAGE 7**

the credit.
Saipan Tribune spotted Ogomoro and **See TINIAN COP on Page 4**

DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro claimed that DEA uses local police for its operations then grabs



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Local

10-hour work hour cuts to take effect on Sunday, May 23

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The 10-hour work reduction or 12.5-percent salary reduction per pay period among excepted service employees and gubernatorial appointees in the Executive Branch will take effect on Sunday, May 23, and not last week as earlier announced by the Fitial administration.

This means the standard work day for affected employees will be from 8:30am to 4:30pm, with an hour off for lunch, instead of the current 7:30am to 4:30pm on Mondays to Fridays.

Office of Personnel Manage-

ment director Isidro K. Seman said the reduction in hours and salary was deferred to May 23 due to the differing dates the affected individuals received the notices of work hour and salary cuts.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos and acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack separately confirmed on Tuesday and yesterday that the work hour cuts will take effect on May 23.

The Fitial administration said the reduction in work hours is necessary to curtail expenses. The government's projected revenue has been revised to \$137 million from \$148 million for the rest of

Fiscal Year 2010, but expenses continue to be at \$150 million. Budget deficit was at \$17 million in the first six months of 2010 alone.

Seman said appointing authorities are responsible for ensuring that all excepted service employees are allowed to work only 35 hours each week beginning on this date.

"The salaries for overtime-exempt employees will be reduced by 12.5 percent beginning this date and every effort will be made to maintain their work re-

quirements to 35 hours," Seman said in a May 18 memorandum, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Seman said overtime-exempt employees can be required to work extra hours if required to perform necessary duties, "but this requirement should not be abused."

The Senate rejected a House-passed austerity bill that would have applied the work hour cuts across-the-board in government.

As a result, only excepted

service or contract employees, as well as gubernatorial appointees, in the Executive Branch are affected by the work hour cuts.

Excepted service employees at the Legislature and Judiciary are not affected by the work hour cuts and will continue to receive their full salaries. But there are at least four House of Representatives members who had volunteered to have their paychecks cut in solidarity with affected Executive Branch employees.

In his one-page memo, Seman said no request for personnel action forms are necessary to effect the work hour cuts for

overtime-eligible employees, as no changes in salaries or contracts have been affected.

"The Department of Finance will not pay beyond 35 hours per week for any affected overtime-eligible excepted service employee without adequate justification and my written approval," Seman said.

The OPM director also required all appointing authorities to prepare a single request for personnel action with an attached listing of employees that shows the date each employee received the notification letter, the employee's present salary, and amended salary. This list must be submitted today.



Seman

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Work-hour cut notices issued to select DPH personnel

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez confirmed Tuesday that some employees have already been served notices of 10-hour cuts in their work hours,

primarily affecting those who do not work in direct contact with patients such as the clinical and administration sections.

He would not say, however, as to when the notices were actually issued out.

"There are people in the depart-

ment that already received their letters informing them to start working in 70 hours. These are personnel assigned in non-direct patients care," Villagomez said.

He said they are still looking at other department sections where the next notices will be issued.

The health chief expressed support for the governor's budget submission for the department next fiscal year and other austerity measures recommended by the administration.

"I am in support of the governor's budget submission..." he told *Saipan Tribune*, citing the meager government revenue projections of just \$132 million in FY 2011.

Fitial requested \$32.4 million for public health's personnel and

operation next fiscal year. So far, DPH is the first agency among departments that are classified essential to express support for the meager budget.

"As much as possible we have to carry our services out and we have to have people onboard. But we are looking at a lot of different ways to cut down expenditures on public health like cutting down overtime," he said.

Part of the internal austerity measures at DPH is closing down some clinics to move nurses to the hospital so that overtime pay would decrease every pay period.

The department, he added, also ordered a travel freeze using

local funds to sustain the priority needs of the hospital. Reducing expenditures for the Medical Referral program is also among their priorities.



Villagomez

He assured, though, that the delivery of quality service remains a priority at the Commonwealth health Center. "Despite all these austerity measures...we want to make sure that we're not compromising the delivery of best health care to our people," he said.

Budget breakdown

Based on the governor's submission, DPH was proposed to have 485 full-time employees: 380 for the hospital and 105 for

various department sections.

Of the proposed \$32.4 million budget for DPH, \$19.1 million is allocated for salaries while \$13.3 million is budgeted for operations and supplies.

Saipan Tribune learned that for the hospital alone, the governor proposed a \$20.1 million budget, of which \$16.3 million will go to personnel cost and \$3.7 million will be used for operational expenses.

The item with the highest proposed budget is the Medicaid reimbursement, for which the governor allocated \$4.6 million next fiscal year. Some \$3.4 million was recommended for patient referral on Saipan.

Pharmaceutical supplies for the hospital is budgeted at \$1.3 million.

BOR panel nixes consultant for NMC presidential search

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A Northern Marianas College Board of Regents committee has nixed the idea of hiring a consultant to help the college look for a new president.

Regent Frank Rabauliman, chairman of the fiscal and legislative committee, reported to the board last Friday that the committee does not support the idea

of hiring a presidential search consultant. He described the idea as "not advisable at this time" due to the financial state of the college.

The Association of Community Colleges Trustees earlier offered

to help NMC look for a new president, at a cost of between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The ACCT proposal included tasks such as announcing the position and background checks of candidates.

ACCT is a Washington, D.C.-based organization where community colleges find support among each other such as board trainings and movements within the community college like lobbying for help. NMC is a member of the group.

The board gave former college president Dr. Carmen Fernandez her 30-day termination

notice on April 12. Yesterday was her last day at the college. Lorraine Cabrera is the interim president until a permanent replacement is named.

No one has been named to the presidential search committee yet but Board of Regents chair Janet H. King assured that members will come from various sectors of the college and the CNMI community.



King

When earlier asked about the capability of the college to pay for another consultant, King said the board is very mindful of the cost.

"That's why we have the fiscal committee looking at that avenue. The board is very mindful of the

cost...but we're also mindful of the importance and significance of the process of presidential search. We have to make sure that it's done with integrity, professionalism, and thoroughly," King told *Saipan Tribune*.

Prior to hiring Fernandez in 2007, it took the board about eight months to fill the post. No consultant was hired for this process but it did hire a company to do background checks on the candidates. The NMC Foundation shouldered the cost of bringing in the top candidates for board interviews.

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BABAUTA

From Page 1

for the community.

Babauta was one of seven individuals who testified at the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Areas, Oceans, and Wildlife oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

He cited the CNMI's insistence that it has the power to revoke the so-called umbrella permits it issued prior to the transition date of Nov. 28, 2009.

Umbrella permits authorize alien workers to remain and be employed in the CNMI until November 2011.

In his testimony, Babauta said while federal agencies have applauded the CNMI for issuing umbrella permits and have fully recognized the validity

of those permits during the time, "the insistence of the CNMI government that the CNRA does not preempt its ability to continue to regulate alien employment is fostering a climate of confusion and disarray among workers and the business community."

CNRA stands for the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, or PL 110-229.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who also testified at the hearing, blamed Interior and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, however, for their "seriously flawed" implementation of PL 110-229. **(See main story)**

Fitial also wrote to Babauta's boss, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, asking him to withdraw the Office of Insular Affairs report recommending long-term immigration status for alien workers who have been in the CNMI for at least five years.

So far, there's no indication that Interior will withdraw the report.

Incorrect information

Despite the best efforts of DHS, Interior and the U.S. Department of Labor to educate the community, workers and businesses, Babauta said the CNMI government continues to administer the same procedures in the employment of aliens as were required prior to the effective date of the CNRA.

These include issuing administrative decisions purporting to revoke or modify alien work authorization in the CNMI.

Babauta said the CNMI Office of the Governor and Department of Labor "have issued guidance providing contradictory and incorrect information to the public."

He said they have also been advising employers in the CNMI that as long as they comply with local law, they are not subject to an important federal civil rights law enforced by the U.S. Depart-

ment of Justice that the CNRA extended to the CNMI.

"In addition, through Public Law 17-1, the CNMI has mandated that most lawfully present aliens, whether admitted by the CNMI pre-November 28, 2009 or subsequently by DHS, as well as unlawfully present aliens, must register with the CNMI Department of Labor or face jail time, a fine, or both," Babauta told the Subcommittee.

One result has been an increase in the number of service providers promising that, for a fee, an alien can receive CNMI authorization to work and remain in the CNMI.

"Some of these service providers have obtained such authorization from the CNMI even though under the CNRA the CNMI is no longer in con-

trol of immigration and alien employment in the CNMI," he said.

Babauta also said that aliens who possess long-term business permits, alien investors, and corporations with alien shareholders are being denied business license renewals until CNMI entry permits are renewed by the CNMI.

"Many do not want to risk the loss of business revenue to fight the CNMI and simply comply at a cost of \$1,000 per entry permit," he added.

Babauta also pointed to a May 7 report by the Government Accountability Office chronicling the difficulties encountered by DHS in fully implementing federal immigration.

"The GAO found that DHS faces operational challenges, as well as challenges negotiating with the CNMI government," he said.

BLAME

From Page 1

Officials who testified at the hearing pointed to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's failure to come up with final rules on the visa waiver program, the CNMI-only worker program, and the foreign investor program, two years since U.S. Public Law 110-229 was enacted.

DHS did not send any of its representatives to the hearing.

David Gootnick, the U.S. Government Accountability Office's director for international affairs and trade, said DHS plans to issue the final rules on the CNMI-treaty investor program in July, the CNMI-only work permit program in September, and the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program in November 2010.

"The area of greatest concern is the lack of regulations implementing the programs applicable to the [CNMI]," said CNMI Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) in his testimony.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said DHS and the Interior Department's implementation of Public Law 110-229 have been "seriously flawed."

He added that Interior and GAO, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, failed to provide reports mandated by PL 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

No to improved status of alien workers

When asked during the hearing, Fitial reiterated his opposition to granting improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, saying the workers came to the CNMI to work and not for citizenship.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said the decision to grant improved status to long-term alien workers in the CNMI now rests with the U.S. Congress.

"We already knew that the governor would say that again," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Back in December, Fitial had said he won't oppose granting alien workers "green cards" should the federal government offers it.

Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony M. Babauta said while DHS has made great strides in its implementation of PL 110-229, it has also faced many difficulties, including those posed by the CNMI government.

Gootnick reiterated GAO's findings in a May 7, 2010, report that DHS efforts to implement the law have en-

countered obstacles, mostly from inability to conclude negotiations with the CNMI on the use of airport space, use of prison, and direct access to CNMI data on aliens.

He said there is a basic lack of trust between the two parties that makes the negotiation difficult.

Gootnick proposed stationing a DHS manager in the CNMI to provide a sustained presence and who would have full authority to conclude the negotiations. He said piecemeal negotiations have not been effective.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said one indication of a lack of engagement by DHS at the department level was that it sent no official to the hearing to answer questions.

"One year later, the people of the CNMI are still waiting for DHS to make good on these assurances," Sablan said, referring to DHS' assurances a year ago that it has been working hard to minimize adverse effects caused by federalization.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho said DHS should extend its parole authority over Chinese and Russian tourists to Guam, or better yet, amend its rules to include China and Russia in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

DHS has allowed Chinese and Russian tourists to be paroled into the CNMI on a case-by-case basis, but did not extend this to Guam.

Guam Visitors Bureau vice chair Lamonte "Jim" Beighly said DHS or its component agencies have not yet implemented additional security measures, a year after DHS testified that these would be in place before Guam would have access to Chinese and Russian tourists.

CNMI Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), for his part, enumerated areas that were severely affected by the implementation of PL 110-229, including the displacement of CNMI immigration employees, the loss of \$5 million in nonresident worker fees, and DHS' lack of consultation with the CNMI government.

'Greater cooperation needed'

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, which held the hearing Tuesday afternoon in Washington, D.C., summed up what's needed to effectively implement the federalization law in the CNMI, as well as in Guam.

"After today's oversight hearing, it is clear that greater cooperation is needed within the Executive Branch and between DHS and the CNMI government in order for the effective

implementation of federal immigration control in the CNMI," said Subcommittee chair Guam Delegate Madeline Z. Bordallo.

She said progress must be made, particularly with respect to implementing the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

She expressed hope that OIA's Babauta will work through the inter-agency process to permanently include China and Russia in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

"I remain firm in my belief that the congressional intent of Public Law 110-229 warrants the permanent inclusion of China and Russia visitors to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program," Bordallo said in a statement.

The CNMI and Guam governors said the continuation of the DHS parole program—instead of amending the final rule to include China and Russia—will not allow the CNMI and Guam to expand their tourism markets.

Fitial said the exercise of parole authority is merely a "stop-gap" measure.

'Extend transition period'

Fitial said the CNMI needs Bordallo's Subcommittee's help in correcting the implementation of the CNRA by federal agencies, and considering any amendments to the law that might be necessary.

In his 12-page testimony, Fitial asked the subcommittee to consider three amendments to the CNRA:

1. Repeal of the elimination of the Covenant's cover-over provision relating to immigration and naturalization fees paid in the CNMI.
2. Extend the period of time for umbrella permits to remain in force, from two years to four years.
3. Extend the transition period from the end of 2014 to the end of 2019.

Referendum

Fitial called for Interior's withdrawal of its report to Congress recommending long-term immigration status for alien workers who have legally resided in the CNMI for at least five years.

Fitial talked about a referendum, on the issue of granting better status for nonresident workers. He said this is an important matter that should be considered at the local level before any federal legislation is considered.

"In this connection, I plan to discuss with the CNMI Legislature whether a referendum be prepared on this subject for consideration of the Commonwealth's voters at the November 2010 election," he said.

TINIAN COP

From Page 1

DEA Guam-CNMI resident agent-in-charge Antonio Marquez talking outside the main entrance of Horiguchi Building in Garapan past 12pm. Ogomoro appeared upset.

"I don't need them [DEA]. We don't need these people," Ogomoro told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after his conversation with Marquez.

Ogomoro later held a news briefing where he identified the arrested persons and asked the DEA high command to relieve Marquez.

"Mr. Marquez thinks he can come in and push people around," Ogomoro said.

He also accused a Tinian police officer of betraying DPS and violating Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's order by leaking information to the DEA.

Marquez told *Saipan Tribune* there is no foundation to Ogomoro's comments.

"Today we conducted a successful operation with DPS Tinian and I would like to give my appreciation to resident director Rey Pangelinan and to Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz for their commitments and efforts in trying to combat the drug issue on Tinian," Marquez said.

Ogomoro said the Tinian arrests were supposed to be a sole DPS operation but DEA stepped in after a police officer leaked the information to DEA.

"They're using DPS because they cannot do it by themselves," he said. "They've been doing it for a long time and I'm against it."

He also threatened sanction against the officer that allegedly leaked the information to DEA. "That officer is subject to reassignment. He betrayed DPS. He will be identified. I know the name," Ogomoro said.

Ogomoro said he proceeded to the Horiguchi Building in Garapan to intercept the transport of the arrested persons to DEA. "They should not be interfering. There is a friction now between DPS and DEA," he said.

Confrontation

In the middle of the interview, a man came out of the Horiguchi Building and approached Ogomoro. *Saipan Tribune* sources identified him as Tinian police officer Mongkeya.

The two talked in the dialect but Ogomoro would sometimes respond in English. "You are violating the governor's order!" Ogomoro told the officer.

Ogomoro then turned to *Saipan Tribune* and pointed to Mongkeya, saying, "This is the guy!"

He then turned back to Mongkeya and said: "It's a big mistake. These

federal guys will take credit from DPS. They used you. They used DPS because they don't have anything to do."

Mongkeya mentioned the names of Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and DPS Tinian resident director Rey Pangelinan but Ogomoro replied that both the mayor and the resident director are wrong.

"They're incompetent. They should not let DEA step in. They used you guys and they are going to take the credit," Ogomoro said.

"I'm very upset! Just because they come from the mainland, they know everything?" Ogomoro said.

News briefing

At the press conference in his office, Ogomoro identified the arrested persons as Tinian Police Officer 1 Gilbert Macaranas, Henry San Nicolas, and Carlos Aldan.

Ogomoro said eight Tinian police officers participated in the operation and that no DEA agent was involved.

Ogomoro said the Tinian police who transported the arrested persons are now asking for fuel so they could go back to Tinian. "That's why I'm telling them to get money from Marquez to fill out that boat to go back," Ogomoro told reporters.

When asked for comments, Marquez said he knows it was difficult for the officers for having apprehended one of their own.

"But this shows that those involved in drug trafficking are not above the law," he said. "Their efforts are greatly appreciated and we will continue to support DPS Tinian in their efforts in combating the drug issue on the island."

Despite Ogomoro having already identified the suspects, assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto said they cannot comment yet because the indictments are sealed.

"And by court order, nobody should be revealing the identities of those people," Benedetto said.

He said revealing the identities of the suspects is interference with legitimate law enforcement efforts.

Marquez stressed that this was a joint DEA-DPS Tinian operation that has been going on for the better part of the year.

When asked about his "encounter" with Ogomoro at the Horiguchi building, Marquez said it was a brief conversation that lasted less than four minutes.

"Essentially he [Ogomoro] contacted the office through the deputy marshal downstairs. I came downstairs and identified myself. I advised him that we're in the process of finishing some paperwork on the people detained," he said.

Budget proposal for tourism promotions cut in half

» **'MVA may reduce exposure in source countries'**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The proposed budget to promote the CNMI in other countries next fiscal year has been cut by almost half, from \$10 million down to \$5.3 million.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday that the agency had asked for \$10 million for the advertising and promotions of the destination to other countries in Fiscal Year 2011. However, due to the declining government revenue, the governor cut this amount to just \$5.394 million in the budget request he submitted to the Legislature.

The CNMI government expects total revenue to reach just \$132 million next fiscal year, which starts this October.

If the Legislature approves the governor's budget request, Tenorio said that many of his agency's important activities will be adversely affected.

"We would have to maybe reduce exposure from source countries and we will have to balance that," he said, adding

that any decision as to which source market will be affected lies with the MVA board of directors.

Besides the reduced budget allocation, certain austerity measures were also recommended for next fiscal year, including wage reduction across the board.

When asked about the MVA's position on the administration's proposal, Tenorio said it is for the board to decide.

MVA is operating under a continuing budget of \$6.1 mil-

lion. Only 20 percent of that amount goes to personnel; the rest is budgeted for all others and a large portion is spent to advertise the CNMI.

At present, the CNMI has offshore offices in Japan and Korea. Because of the federalization of local immigration, this hampers the agency's plan to re-open an office in China, which was closed down in 2006 due to budget constraint. Since then, MVA has been working closely with two tour agencies that provide charter services from China.

China and Russia remain excluded in the CNMI-Guam Visa

Waiver program.

Chinese tourists bring to the CNMI \$1,967 in direct impact and \$3,163 in indirect benefits per tourist, while Russian visitors are among the group that has the biggest impact on the economy because of their long stay on island: \$4,323 in direct impact per visitor and \$14,143 in indirect impact.

However, this number is shrinking due to global competition.

Tenorio cited the limited marketing funds and unstable air seats as among the biggest challenges facing the Commonwealth's tourism industry.

SPED needs more specialists; 13 'hard-to-fill' posts open

The lack of specialists and the difficulty of finding qualified individuals for the Public School System's special education program continues to be among its biggest challenges.

Based on the Board of Education's vacancy announcements posted on May 14, PSS currently needs 13 specialists to serve students with special needs on all three islands.

These hard-to-fill positions include audiologists, speech language pathologist, physical therapist, occupational

therapist, specialist for deaf and hard of hearing, visually impaired specialist, education psychologist, itinerant reading specialist, special education coordinator, and special education teacher. *Saipan Tribune* learned that these vacant positions, although continuously advertised, yield few applicants, mostly from off-island.

The lack of specialists for children with special needs has prompted complaints from parents who lament the lack of ser-

vices for their kids.

PSS is also looking for teachers, school principals and counselors, personnel specialists, and a finance director.

The SPED program has a total enrollment of 782 on three islands: 699 on Saipan, 51 on Tinian, and 62 on Rota.

PSS provides special education for children between ages 3 and 21 who have been determined to have a disability and need specialized instruction and possibly related services. (*Moneth Deposa*)

Man gets 9 months for 'ice' possession

The federal court imposed a nine-month prison term yesterday on a man for possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John C. Coughenour also ordered Juan Ada Jr. to be placed on three years of supervised release.

Coughenour required Ada to perform 100 hours of community service and pay a \$300 court assessment fee.

During the probationary period, Ada will be required, among other things, to participate in a substance abuse treatment program under the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto had recommended nine months in prison. Ada's lawyer, Matthew Smith, recommended the low-end of the sentencing guidelines, with credit for time served, and for the re-

mainder of the jail term to be served under probation or home confinement.

According to court papers, Ada was caught selling "ice" on three occasions in 2009. He entered a guilty plea.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, Ada used to be a co-worker of "ice" distributor Jawn Joyner at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Unit on Saipan. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on May 20, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before May 20.

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Overwhelming support for Schrack as Finance secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Robert "Bob" A. Schrack received overwhelming support in his appointment as secretary of the Department of Finance, where he has worked for 15 years under four different governors.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) received testimony favorable to Schrack during yesterday's public hearing on his nomination.

Schrack himself was "overwhelmed" by the show of support for his nomination.

"I was overwhelmed. I didn't expect all that positive testimony. I thought long and hard before accepting the governor's nomination. After hearing all this, I feel I made the right choice, and committed to try to get us through these hard economic times," he told *Saipan Tribune* right after the public hearing.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who presented Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's nominee to the Senate EAGI Committee, said Schrack is someone who provides the facts "without massaging" the financial data.

The EAGI Committee is poised to recommend to the full Senate Schrack's confirmation.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
From left, acting Finance Secretary Robert "Bob" Schrack, Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan, and Customs director Jesus Muna at the start of a public hearing on Schrack's nomination as Finance secretary in the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill yesterday morning.

Demapan said Schrack's Senate confirmation will accomplish two things: the completion of nominees to the Cabinet, and filling up the post with a qualified individual.

Since 1995, Schrack has been special assistant to the secretary of Finance, a post previously served by now Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Schrack served and continues to serve under the terms of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, Pedro P. Tenorio, Juan N. Babauta, and now Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is serving his second term in office.

"Mr. Schrack...will be an

incredible asset to the Executive Branch," Demapan told the senators.

Schrack talked about the CNMI's current finances, including the \$17 million deficit during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010, and the difficulty of juggling resources between payroll, medical referrals and utility costs.

He said austerity measures are needed, and suggested that the governor be given 100 percent reprogramming authority to allow for the payment of utilities, medical referrals and other programs and services.

Schrack, who has 25 years in

government finance experience, also talked about steadily declining government revenue.

Before the first term of the Fitial administration in 2005, government budget was at \$216 million, before going down to \$213 million, and then to \$148 million. But this was revised further to just \$137 million for the remainder of FY 2010. The projected revenue for FY 2011 is only \$132 million.

Schrack said a main difference between the 2010 and 2011 projected revenue is the loss of collection from labor and immigration fees as a result of the federalization law, which took

effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

"We've been cutting expenses but we have not been able to cut fast," he later said.

Customs director Jesus Muña, one of those who testified in favor of Schrack's nomination, said Schrack is the "most qualified candidate" for the job.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said Schrack is well respected not only in the CNMI but also in Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia when it comes to best financial practices.

Ada spoke of Schrack's "historical knowledge of CNMI finances," and of his efforts in ensuring accounting and accountability related to some \$96 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants to the CNMI.

Viola Alepuyo, lawyer for the NMI Retirement Fund, attested to Schrack's "professionalism, honesty and integrity" especially during the court hearings on the NMI Retirement Fund lawsuit against the government.

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said having an adversary in a court proceeding testify in favor of the other party says a lot about Schrack's ability.

Francisco S. Ada Jr. of the Office of Personnel Management said in these challenging times, the CNMI needs a Finance secretary.

Ada said Schrack is "a man

we need to confirm at this time before he changes his mind."

Reyes and Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said Schrack already has two "yes" votes on his confirmation, which has yet to be set.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said there's no doubt that Schrack is the right one for the job of Finance secretary.

Taimanao, chairman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, asked Schrack to work closely with government departments and agencies on budget issues. The committee is wrapping up its series of 2011 budget hearings.

"I agree... We have to catch you before you run away," she added.

Sen. Francisco Cruz said he looks forward to working with Schrack, and asked the nominee to enlighten the Senate EAGI Committee on the rollover or cover-taxes from the federal government.

Cruz's EAGI Committee has so far recommended full Senate confirmation for all the governor's nominations, including that of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafinas, Personnel Management Director Isidro Seman, and Indigenous Affairs resident executive director Ignacio Demapan. The Senate confirmed all these nominees.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-042

"REPLACE/REPAIR OF DOORS AND WINDOWS OF TANAPAG ELEMENTARY, GARAPAN, OLEAI, WSR ELEMENTARY AND HOPWOOD JR. HIGH"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Replacement/Repair of Doors and Windows of Tanapag Elementary, Garapan Elementary, Oleai Elementary, WSR Elementary and Hopwood Jr. High** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 6, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$56.45.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 31, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-042, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, June 4, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-043

"REPLACE/REPAIR OF DOORS AND WINDOWS OF DANDAN ELEMENTARY, SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY, CHACHA JR. HIGH AND KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Replacement/Repair of Doors and Windows of Dandan Elementary, San Vicente Elementary, Chacha Jr. High and Kagman High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 6, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$56.45.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

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All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-043, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, June 4, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

6 DPS personnel test positive for marijuana use

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six Department of Public Safety personnel on Saipan have been found positive for illegal drug use during a random drug test conducted by DPS last March, according to DPS deputy commissioner Ambro-

sio Ogumoro yesterday.

Ogumoro disclosed that two police officers and four firefighters turned up positive for marijuana use, prompting DPS to issue suspension with termination notices.

"They are suspended and awaiting termination. There are already two who get terminat-

ed—one police officer and one firefighter," he said.

Ogumoro said the random drug test covered all DPS uniformed and civilian personnel, including himself and Commissioner Santiago Tudela.

"Everyone that works in the Department of Public Safety—civilians, police, fire—they un-

derwent the random drug testing," he said.

"That should be the message to all. If you are a police officer or a firefighter, you must go through that drug testing," Ogumoro said.

He added that Tinian and Rota DPS should also conduct the same random drug testing

by having the resident directors request for cooperation from their respective mayors.

In compliance with Ogumoro's memorandum on random drug testing, DPS personnel were tested at the Diagnostic Laboratory Services Inc. in Gualo Rai.

DPS said one of Ogumoro's

campaigns is the fight against illicit drugs and narcotics.

Cancer Survivor Support meeting on Monday

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the survivor support meeting on Monday, May 24, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, starting at 6pm.

This month's survivor support meeting will include a presentation on stress management, communication strategies for survivors and caregivers, and resources available for individuals and families at the Community Guidance Center, followed by survivors-only discussion.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Joanne Ogo at 236-8728 or email joanne.ogo@gmail.com. (PR)

Cabot Mantanona's \$25K extra charge OK'd

» 'Both parties were aware legal services were continuing'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College has approved paying the \$24,557 additional charge being billed by the Guam-based consultant hired by the college to handle the suspension of then-president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

After a closed-door meeting that took almost an hour, the board immediately adopted the decision to pay Cabot Mantanona's extra billing, as recommended by the fiscal and legislative committee.

In the original contract, the firm was to be paid \$175 per hour for the preparation of documents and professional services—but not to exceed \$25,000. The college had already paid this amount. The law firm, however, presented the college with a second billing on April 30 amounting to \$24,557, for "extra" services rendered.

Board chair Janet H. King told *Saipan Tribune* the deci-

sion to pay the excess charge was made in consultation with the board's legal counsel and the fiscal and legislative committee—all of whom acknowledged the services and benefits from the extra work Cabot Mantanona rendered.

Saipan Tribune learned that the college received Cabot Mantanona's justification and a detailed account of the second billing yesterday. NMC, however, refused *Saipan Tribune's* request for a copy of the detailed report and letter, citing client-attorney privilege.

King said the letter was just a reiteration of the billing that was provided the college.

"They also informed us that they did cut the cost—by about \$4,000—from the billing. They also thanked us for giving them the opportunity to represent NMC," King told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the longstanding question by some regents about the firm being given "pre-approval" or "go signal" to continue working beyond the \$25,000 cap was also answered at the meeting.

"That issue was also discussed, whether they were given actual notice or NMC was given the actual notice.

Both parties were aware that legal services were continuing even beyond the first payment of the initial \$25,000," King said.

NMC has already been instructed to prepare the law firm's check, reflecting additional payment for the amended contract.

"It's not a new contract because the scope of work is exactly the same. It is an addendum [to the original contract]," King explained.

Difficult decision

Committee chair Frank Rabaulman described the board's task as "difficult" when it decided on the issue and he expressed appreciation to the members who participated in the deliberation and for their input.

Regent Paz Younis, who took part in the meeting via teleconference, expressed support for paying Cabot Mantanona a second time, citing the "complex process" it went through to

complete the task.

Regent Elaine Orilla said the issue should serve as a lesson to the board and the management. She pointed out the need for open communication at all levels to prevent the same issue from happening.

The committee earlier blamed the lack of communication between parties as the reason for the "second billing."

Yesterday's special meeting was attended by King, Rabaulman, Andrew Orsini, and Elaine Orilla, while Younis joined via teleconference.

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DHS files seven new removal cases

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement has filed new removal cases against seven persons, including an ex-convict amputee.

The respondents in the new removal cases were Aimiji Caleb Yoshio, Hidehito Hida, John Benjamin John, Xia Tang, Xin Qu Chen, Min Zhang, and

Yan Feng Yu.

Yoshio is a native of the Republic of Marshall Islands, while Hida is a Japanese national. John is from the Federated States of Micronesia. Tang, Chen, Zhang, and Yu are Chinese nationals.

Yoshio, an amputee, was sentenced in January 2006 to five years in prison for slashing the face of his girlfriend with a trimmer blade out of jealousy. In August 2002,

Yoshio was also convicted of assault and battery for beating up the same victim.

Hida was one of two businessmen accused in 2007 of forcibly bringing an investor to Banzai Cliff in the early morning of Aug. 18 of that year and beating him up, threatening to push him off the cliff if he doesn't pay them \$250,000.

Los Angeles-based Immigration Judge Rose Peters has been hearing several removal

cases since Monday. She will hold the last hearing today, Thursday.

DHS ICE assistant chief counsel Jeannette Park is appearing for the U.S. government at the hearings.

With the filing of seven new cases, *Saipan Tribune* counted 58 number of removal cases that have been filed with the Saipan U.S. Immigration court since the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 20, 1999

Shorter transfer period for guest workers pushed

The House Labor and Immigration Committee yesterday endorsed two measures for voting by the full legislative body that will seek amendment to existing regulations on nonresident workers, including employment transfer and restriction of medical benefits. Committee chair Rep. Herman T. Palacios said both bills will be considered for passage in the next House session following overwhelming support from members of the panel. House Bill 11-237 will require guest workers who seek transfer to another job to secure employment within three days upon the expiration of the previous contract, or else they must leave the island immediately or face deportation.

Public hearing called for power rate cut

Insisting the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues to enjoy government subsidy, Sen. Edward U. Maratita yesterday called for a public hearing on a legislative proposal to lower the cost of electricity on the island. "I will be pushing for the bill so the people can speak because it's only CUC that is saying that there will be a big impact on (its financial situation)," he said in an interview. The senator from Rota has offered Senate Bill 11-115 seeking reduction in the power rate for residential from 11 cents to nine cents per kilowatt-hour and for commercial, 16 cents to 11 cents.

May 20, 2002

Babauta mum on Senate mudslinging

Gov. Juan N. Babauta had nothing but a terse "I don't have time for that," when asked Friday to comment on reports that the \$2 million Compact Impact money that went to the Tinian High School was in exchange for the confirmation of all his nominees. This comes even as Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano belied the report Sunday, saying the comment is uncalled for and a disservice to all gubernatorial nominees who have already been confirmed by the Senate to their posts. It will be noted that Sens. Ramon S. Guerrero and Pete P. Reyes had earlier quoted Sen. David M. Cing as having told them that he had a quid pro quo arrangement with the governor involving the Compact Impact money. Allegedly, Babauta had met with Cing and agreed to allocate the entire \$2 million in Compact Impact money to Tinian in exchange for the confirmation of all his nominees.

Babauta bares budget plan to public

Living up to its promise of making governance transparent, the Babauta administration is making its Fiscal Year 2003 spending plan available to the public. In a statement faxed to media offices, the Public Information and Protocol Office announced that the administration budget is now available to the public and taxpayers are being encouraged to review the CNMI government's priorities. For those who want to give the proposed spending plan a once-over, the statement said it may be viewed or copies of it may be obtained at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Northern Marianas College Library.

May 20, 2003

New school funding formula mulled

The Public School System is being asked to implement an innovative school financing system called the Weighted Student Formula, which the House of Representatives yesterday endorsed as an approach that would empower the educational institution to more effectively respond to the needs of every student. The WSF, which reportedly paved the way for meaningful performance and achievement gains in school districts in Seattle, Houston and Canada, is touted as a student-centered school-funding model. Rep. William S. Torres, who introduced the concept to legislators through House Resolution 13-145, said that much of funding allocated to schools is justified based on population, not necessarily factoring in elements that the enrollment data does not capture.

House awaiting NMC's marketing proposal

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said yesterday he is still waiting for the Northern Marianas College to submit to the Legislature the marketing proposal under its Pacific Gateway project. The legislator took time to mention during a session yesterday that every day that that part of NMC's proposal remains missing contributes to the delay in making the CNMI's lone public college financially self-sustaining. "In order for us to commit \$10 million [for this undertaking], we need to look at the details," said Hofschneider, adding that time is of the essence.

What is tourism?

Tourists frolic on the crystal-clear waters of Managaha Island.

LIAN WOO

As the sole economic driver in the Northern Mariana Islands, tourism attracted nearly 350,000 visitors last fiscal year for recreational, leisure or business purposes. In this island nation, travel and tourism has been the major vehicle for economic growth over the last 35 years.

In FY 2007, the CNMI reached its highest level ever of visitor arrivals at 726,690. Although FY 2009 arrivals were lower, the industry still generated \$44-million in business gross revenue tax and almost \$6-million in hotel tax. Visitors also had \$283-million in direct financial impact on the Northern Marianas economy from hotel and on-island expenditures.

The U.S. Department of Commerce classifies tourism in the United States—including the NMI—as an export. Tourism is vital for the Northern Marianas, generating money for businesses offering goods and services. It also provides

opportunity for employment in service industries associated with tourism, such as hotels, restaurants, stores, and taxis, to name a few.

In addition to its economic impact, tourism affects the social, environmental, and cultural fronts of the community. For the Northern Marianas, that has meant a continual presence of thousands of visitors. Rapid development spurred by tourism growth has opened doors for international cultural exchange and influence, while reinforcing the need to help keep indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture intact. A delicate balance is forged between the natural beauty of the islands, which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, and the environmental impact of new development and population growth.

The responsibility of promoting the Northern Marianas as a tourism destination falls on the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The MVA, formerly the Marianas Visitors Bureau, was created by public law in 1998 as a public corporation utilizing government, tourist-oriented business, and community leaders to provide for the orderly development of the industry and realize its full potential. Today, the MVA leverages its \$6.1-million budget to compete with

Guam, Hawaii, Bali, and other resort destinations for visitors and generate tax revenue for public safety, public health, education, and other services vital for the well-being of the Northern Marianas community.

For more information on NMI tourism, visit the official MVA Web site at www.mymarianas.com. (MVA)

NMC Summer 2010 registration ongoing

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Summer 2010 semester will be ongoing until this Friday, May 21, 2010.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the Summer 2010 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The Summer 2010 semester is divided into four sessions: Regular Summer Session (nine-week courses), Extended Summer Session (12-week courses), Summer Session I (six-week courses) and

Summer Session II (six-week courses starting July 6).

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the college's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC Web site.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that both placement tests have been taken.

■ May 19-21: Registration for Summer 2010 Semester, 9p.m to 6p.m.

■ May 19-June 2: Registration for Summer Session II, 9pm to 6pm.

■ May 26: First day of instruction

■ May 31: CNMI Legal Holiday (Memorial Day)

■ July 6: First day of instruction for Summer Session II

For more information regarding admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 ext. 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (PR)

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP10-DOC-106

SUBMISSION: JUNE 04, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE ON **MAY 26, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. SIXTO K. IGISOMAR, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO deputy.igisomar@commerce.gov.mp OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MAY 28, 2010.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
Secretary of Commerce

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S


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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction various furniture and equipments from the Pacific Gardenia Hotel on Saturday, May 22, 2010.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL** on **Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.**
4. Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises and Buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card - minimum \$100 (MC and Visa only) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.



The hotel will be open for inspection on Thursday and Friday, May 20 and 21 from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

/S/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipattamenton I Tano' Publiku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for right of way. The private property is described as Lot No. 1479-1-I-1, containing an area of 231 square meters, more or less, situated in Tapochao, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 220 E 02, containing an area of 1,900 square meters more or less, located in Agak, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by Mr. Gregorio M. Camacho a resident of Agak, Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 25, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA'ATULAKAN TANO' PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano' Publiku guini ha nã'i notisia i intension-ña para u ma'atulaikan pumalu na tano' publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sankattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi manentiresão na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerã siña munna'hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma'atulaikan I tano' publiku. Komu mäs mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimãnda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma'atulaikan tano' para uma'chule I tano' private para chalan publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano' komo Lot No. 1479-1-I-1, kinensisiste i ãria 231 square meter, potlumenus mäs, gaige giya Tapochao, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano' publiku Lot No. 220 E 02, kinensisiste i ãria 1,900 square meters, potlumenus mã, gaige giya Agak, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano' si Mr. Gregorio M. Camacho, residenten Agak, Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma'atulaikan tano' siña machule' gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano' Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi'i opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma'atulakan tano' publiku antes osino gi dia Mayo 25, 2010 gi Depattamenton Tano'.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammatat igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisi-long aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot 1479-1-I-1, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (231 square meters), elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Agak, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngäre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot No. 1479-1-I-1, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew Lot No. 220 E 02 lapel falúw ye, elo Agak, Seipél.
- iii. Mr. Gregorio M. Camacho elollo Agak, Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal May 25, 2010, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245

Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION



Denyo Power SP Generator



17ft. 1990 Calais Boat; ID#0373PU



Engine

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction a in board boat engine, generator and a 17ft boat on Friday, May 28, 2010. The boat and the generator may be inspected at the CDA Office parking lot in Gualo Rai.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CDA Office Parking Lot** on **Friday, May 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**
4. Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises; and buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

/S/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 119Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Step up to the plate

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For 141 years, baseball has mirrored and propelled America's evolution. It has bridged class divisions, lifted the country's spirits in dark times and, ultimately, helped break down racial barriers. Today, with American values again under attack in Arizona, baseball needs to act.

Born at a time when the country was most divided, the game helped Civil War soldiers stave off fear and boredom. Young men of North and South picked up fence posts and tree branches and swung at balls of cork or knots of rags wrapped around walnuts. At that moment of ultimate American disunity, baseball united: Officers played with enlisted men; prisoners of war played against one another and even their guards. After the war, the game became the physical expression of our founding ideals and the vernacular of our lives, even for those who never rooted for a team or hit a ball with a bat. "Three strikes" describes our limited tolerance for failure; we "pinch hit" for others when necessary and cope with life's "curveballs."

Ebullient Babe Ruth and classy Lou Gehrig captured the nation's attention in the Roaring '20s and then distracted us during the Depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt deemed the "recreational asset" of 300 teams so worthwhile that he urged owners to keep the games going through World War II. Ty Cobb, Satchel Paige, Ted Williams, Willie Mays, Sandy Koufax, Roberto Clement—these men left indelible marks on the American soul.

But baseball is entwined with American life, not above it, and sometimes it suffers along with the nation. Decades of exclusion of black athletes from the major leagues gave the lie to the notion that the American dream could be attained by anyone. When Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson broke the "color line" and Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, it became a metric for American progress. Robinson's rookie year is as sure a precursor of Brown v. Board of Education as was any decision of the Supreme Court. It was also one of those moments when the right business decision served the cause of social justice.

This is another such moment.

A new law in Arizona seems almost certain to lead to racial profiling against Latinos, violating the American values so integral to baseball. Many Americans are appalled, and a movement to boycott the state is afoot. Cities from Oakland, Calif., to Boston have forbidden city-funded travel to Arizona. On Wednesday, Los Angeles joined them; the City Council voted to ban most city travel there and to forgo future business contracts with companies headquartered in the state. Conventions are being canceled as well. The 104-year-old Alpha Phi Alpha—the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s fraternity—has moved its July gathering to Las Vegas.

We'd like to see Major League Baseball pull the 2011 All-Star game from Phoenix. There is ample and effective precedent. Pro football moved the 1993 Super Bowl from Arizona to Pasadena after Arizona refused to adopt Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a holiday. In 1947, the Dodgers moved spring training to Cuba, abandoning Florida, to preserve the dignity of its one black player. Can the same game that stood for such principles half a century ago now allow its Latino all-stars to travel to Phoenix, where they could be treated as suspect because of the color of their skin?

On Thursday, baseball Commissioner Bud Selig hinted that he was not inclined to pull the game. And Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, whose cynical approval of the new law codified Arizona's disgrace, is trying to head off what would be a power-

See STEP UP on Next Page



A full implementation of Public Law 110-229

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony presented by the author to the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, U.S. House of Representatives at the oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam

Hafa Adai! Madam Chairwoman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to participate for the second oversight hearing on this issue in a year in relation to the implementation of Public Law 110-229. I want to reiterate what I had said back in May 2009 and the message remains the same: major hurdles have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and have not been addressed in standing up a Visa Waiver Program that would allow inclusion of currently excluded countries while safeguarding our national security.

Since the last time this committee convened on this matter we have seen very little economic benefit in Guahan related to the passage of Public Law 110-229. While there is no question of the impacts of the rise in revenues for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) over the past year, Guahan continues to wait for some parity in this important matter for what I believe will lead to the diversification of our economy and strengthening of the future economic viability of tourism in the Western Pacific.

I want to state for the record that since the enactment of Public Law 110-229, the expansion of our tourism opportunities has not materialized. Visitors from our largest tourism source market of Japan have continued to drop with each passing day. Last year, I shared with you that the strategic outlook for this market is not encouraging as more low cost leisure resorts in Asia proliferate the competitive landscape, taking away Guahan's share of market. That situation has not changed.

I want to ask Congress to support efforts to fully implement Public Law 110-229 that we believe will result in increases to our number one industry. A favorable visa waiver program will generate an additional \$1.5 billion by 2013 according to our estimates.

Tourism expenditures on Guahan currently total \$1.2 billion in our economy which is about 40 percent of Gross Island Product. The annual 1.2 million visitors are responsible for the spending of 95 percent of this total. This Committee is aware that historically, 80 percent of Guahan's visitors come from Japan—the most mature of our source markets that continues to decline due to an aging population and regional competition from lower cost Asian resort destinations.

I want to remind the Committee that it was the intent of the U.S. Congress that there would be a visa waiver program for both Guahan and the CNMI. Not one over another or one separated—it would be a single program.

I was troubled that back in January 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issue a final rule on the visa waiver program that completely contravened the congressional Intent set out by this Committee and has literally taken my island backwards. In November of 2009, parole authority was extended to the CNMI for China and Russia tourists. Guahan was not afforded the same authority. The Consolidated Natural Resources Act has brought some

By **FELIX P. CAMACHO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Felix P. Camacho is the governor of Guam.



tourists to Guahan from Hong Kong, but it has not been sufficient enough to impact our tourism industry positively. China and Russia are required for this to happen which is why they were deemed countries of "Significant Economic Benefit." Additionally, the expansion of tourism requires that these countries be added to the VWP. Parole authority, by virtue of its discretionary application is being perceived by investors as "temporary in nature" and makes attracting investment in the area of accommodations, airlift, attractions and other key elements very difficult.

Parole authority has allowed the CNMI to maintain a status quo there and has not allowed them to expand. In discussions that our visitors' bureau has had with many potential investors in tourism, having access to China and Russia under Parole Authority is not nearly as attractive as the visa waiver program.

Also, the Guam CNMI Visa Waiver under the CNRA was set to replace the existing Guam Visa Waiver program. Several problems have emerged with this process. When the U.S. Congress created the Guam Visa Waiver program, it was noted at the time that the unique conditions prevalent in the islands justified a "broad application" of the visa waiver program. Therefore the Guam VWP has always listed countries that were not eligible to participate in the Mainland program. The regulatory requirement of a US visa refusal rate of 16.9% or below for countries to be eligible for the Guam program was a reflection of this "broad application". The Interim Final Rule (IFR) that established the eligibility requirements for the Guam-CNMI program completely omitted any reference to Visa refusal rates for eligibility - they were completely thrown out as a basis for inclusion and included eligibility requirements related to Humanitarian concerns that are not, nor have they ever been, part of the U.S. Visa Waiver program. Such inclusion in the new Guam-CNMI program makes the program more stringent than the U.S. Visa Waiver program.

I believe that efforts must be undertaken to equalize efforts in the region by extending parole authority to Guahan and improve the Guam CNMI Visa Waiver Program rules so that our collective tourism communities can have access to these vital source markets with carryover benefits to the rest of the islands in the Northern Pacific including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The economic benefit from Chinese tourists is well documented in both the CNMI and elsewhere. I want to thank the Chairwoman for her work on this issue, and on behalf of the people of Guahan seek hers and the Committee's full support of full implementation of Public Law 110-229.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Predicting your future

Make your life a masterpiece by taking the 60 Day Challenge. You are the artist that can create any life you want by setting and achieving worthwhile goals. Each week until May 20th this column will share ideas and stories to help motivate you toward your objectives.

"Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculpture to discover it."—Michelangelo

This is the final day of the 60-Day Challenge and we want to congratulate you if you've been working on your goals for the last two months. Even if you did not achieve all of them, you've made progress that will help you set the pace for the rest of the year.

If you didn't take the Challenge and you consider yourself average, I'm going to share five bold predictions about your life by the end of the year that are statistically accurate for the majority of people.

1. If you made New Year's resolutions, you've already broken most of them.
2. You will continue to struggle with the same habit patterns you've been trying to break.
3. You will gain two pounds, even though you want to lose some weight.
4. Your income will be about same as the average of your last five years' total.
5. By the end of this year you will be disappointed because of the lack of progress you've made in your life.

Will this describe you? That question can best be answered by

Letters to the Editor

Nice idea

I totally agree with Mr. Sablan's idea regarding status for aliens residing in Saipan. Makes perfect sense. However, the Department of Homeland Security won't issue status just for the mainland U.S. It would be granted for the entire USA, Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and all 50 States. That would be like granting a person a driver's license valid only for the state where they currently reside. If you are an alien who is given status it will be for all of the U.S. Nice idea though...

Paul Beebe

Spokane, Washington

Arizona law Web site

Those who want more information about Arizona's new immigration bill can go online to the governor's Web site, www.azgovernor.gov. Click on the box in the upper right corner "Senate Bill 1070." The first six and a half pages relate to people and the rest of the 18 pages relate to employers. Racial profiling is not allowed by this bill; only those people breaking some law will be questioned.

Franklin Keiper

Mayer, Arizona

STEP UP

From Page 10

ful economic and moral blow to the state. She argued on ESPN.com that "economic boycotts are an inappropriate and misguided response." But no one is obligated to do business with a villain. Yes, Arizona is suffering real consequences from federal inertia on immigration reform, but it has responded with a law that violates this country's ideals.

And if the social justice reasons alone are not persuasive, let us state a few home truths. Baseball's leadership today is primarily in the realm of steroid use. That great home-run race between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa that riveted the nation in 1998? McGwire now acknowledges longtime steroid use. (Sosa later was found to favor a corked bat). Alex Rodriguez, the Yankees' \$275-million-man? Steroids. Roger Clemens, Rafael Palmeiro? Steroids. Home-run champ Barry Bonds? Steroid user—and a surly one at that. The game still looks like major league baseball, but it feels like World Wrestling Entertainment. Major League Baseball's tepid response to this subversion of fair play is all the more reason for it to step up now.

Denying Phoenix the privilege of hosting the All-Star game won't erase the scandals that plague the league, but it would remind the country that even after all these years, baseball can help make America worthy of its game.

you and the desire you have to rise above the "norm." If you participated in the Challenge, you have demonstrated that your life is a masterpiece and you are the artist who controls the palette and what will go on your canvas.

Our objective was to provide you with a vehicle to focus your life in a positive direction and be a source of encouragement to keep you motivated. Whether your goals had to do with exceeding your sales quotas, getting an "A" in a class, becoming debt-free, losing weight, growing your business, or improving your relationships, we hope that your confidence has grown and you've been able to gain a better perspective on life by living outside your comfort zone.

As you continue your own Challenge for the remainder of the year, take time to reflect on how much you have grown and what you have learned from both your successes and setbacks. Here are some questions you can ask yourself during your reflection:

- Did you maintaining focus and pursue each goal until it was complete?
- Did you have deadlines for each goal to set the pace for you to finish on time?
- Did you use a written plan to start each day so you stayed on course?
- Were you driven by a strong sense of urgency that compelled you to move ahead?
- Did you do everything you could during the past 60 days to astound yourself?

Answering these questions will help you to do better next time and to realize your full potential. You won't ever totally arrive in your pursuit of personal mastery because there's always going to be knowledge to learn, love to deepen, and wisdom to share.

In order to gain control over your external environment, you must first control your thoughts, attitude, and actions, which will lead to greater performance and results. As long as you blame others or external events for your failure to become better, you will make minimal progress. The only way to experience meaningful and enduring change for the better is to take personal responsibility and succeed

IN A NUTSHELL

A brief look at sovereignty, the Covenant, self-government, and the economy

Fourth of a five-part series

The three previous articles were in preparation for the point of this essay. As reported in this paper last year, HB 15-146 was introduced in the CNMI Legislature intended to require an appointed commission "to revisit the provisions of the Covenant and U.S. government's actions in interpreting and implementing the Covenant, and to examine alternative political and economic status options for the Northern Marianas."

This is one more example for uninformed, prospective foreign investors to question the islands' future economic and political stability if not in association with the U.S. under the present agreement. Not that the few lawmakers who support the intent of HB 15-146 represent the consensus of the majority; we'll have to wait and see if the movement gets as far as conducting a plebiscite to determine "a more desirable political status" as alluded to in the proposed legislation—if not a more "happy" relationship.

One way or the other this sentiment is now out there for all to see and to question the long-term political affiliation with the United States and by extension the economic stability of the islands. Make no mistake about it. The bill is testimony that some in the Commonwealth are unhappy with the present parameters of the self-government relationship the Commonwealth's own negotiators made with the United States to maneuver the islands out of a condition of political limbo within a Trusteeship status.

I recall being told of an incident where a very prominent local businessman planned to cross the border to visit Mexico from the U.S. side with his Trust Territory passport and was almost denied entry into the country. Of course, at the time he didn't possess an American passport.

This brings to mind a statement made a few years ago by the Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior who observed: "Freedom to choose a political status carries with it the responsibility, first, to make an informed choice and second, to live with the benefits and responsibilities of that choice." Further the official stated, "for insular leaders to argue that what they freely chose 15 (sic) years ago is not what they thought they were choosing is a criticism of those who chose, not those who offered the choice. It is clear from the plain English of the historical documents involved that the United States has sovereignty in the Commonwealth—sovereignty

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults.



in spite of what happens around you and to you. For every excuse you can find to not achieve something, there are hundreds or even thousands of people in worst circumstances who have overcome their challenges to become a better person.

To become a better student, employee, manager, business owner, parent, or leader you must first become a better person. That is why the focus of this Challenge has primarily been about you becoming the best person you can possibly realize. You are the sculpture with the ability to shape your life into a masterpiece. Determine to live each day in a better way and predict your own future by setting your goals high.

We'll end the 60-Day Challenge with some thoughts of one of the greatest artists that ever graced the earth. Michelangelo would envision the masterpiece that was trapped in a block of marble before he ever touched it with a chisel. He said: "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."

You are the "angel" that is being held captive by self-limiting beliefs and circumstances that you feel you cannot control. Break yourself free from those habits, people, circumstances, and beliefs that disempower you and then fly to heights you've only dreamt about until now.

"The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."—Michelangelo

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



is not conditional and does not lend itself to subject applicability."

I think it necessary to recall the above statement in view of the current issue relative to some form of U.S. legal status for alien workers in the NMI as viewed in the shadow of the intent of the Commonwealth's HB 15-146. I also recall a comment made by a member of the U.S. Congress when a delegation from the islands implied they might encourage independence. The congressman replied, "That can be arranged; be careful what you wish for." If I remember correctly the island delegation quickly dropped the subject. Perhaps they realized that independence is very expensive when you have to support the cost yourself.

It's wise to maintain a proper perspective. The CNMI is hard up for money, currently its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is less than that of a medium-sized U.S. city and estimated by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis at \$962 million in 2007. This is \$358 million less than the GDP estimate of only five years earlier in 2002. Saipan's area of 46.5 square miles is about the size of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park in North Carolina and the CNMI's 2007 estimated population of 58,629 would fit easily into the 107,500-seat football stadium at Ann Arbor, Michigan almost two times over. The vast majority of the NMI's infrastructure improvement has been financed by the U.S. Treasury. The paved roads, the air and sea port improvements, jail, educational and hospital facilities, etc., if not financed entirely—then in major part—by the U.S. government.






In my judgment, and that of many others, if the CNMI got nothing from the Covenant with the United States but the application of the American judicial system it would still be better off—in my opinion, of course.

To be continued.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 89 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 77

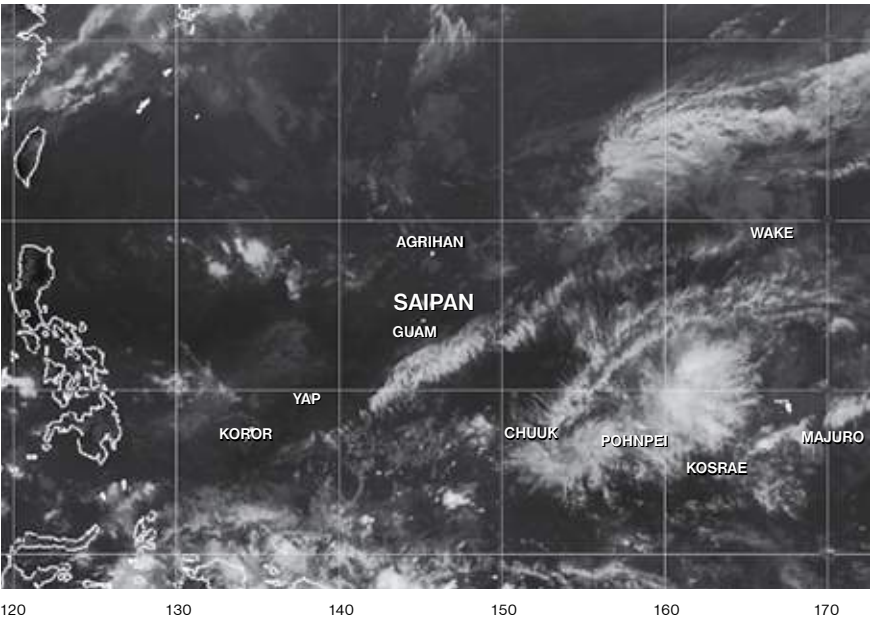
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 78
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 58
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 95 ▼ 85
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
New York	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 52
Osaka	Rain	▲ 78 ▼ 62
Paris	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 52
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 62
Rome	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 54
Salem	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 46
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 50
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 57
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 69 ▼ 64
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 57

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
6:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
11:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
6:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front extends southwestward from 25N165E to 18N155E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest a line from 18N153E to 25N168E. A weak circulation is centered well north of palau near 19N131E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east of the center between 17N and 20N from 132E to 135E. A surface trough runs between Chuuk and Pohnpei from 6N154E to 9N168E. Scattered showers are occurring between 5N and 8N from 155E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Pohnpei and north of Kosrae between 6N and 12N from 159E to 164E and scattered showers over Kwajalein and around Majuro from 5N to 11N from 166E to beyond 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:26 AM	
Friday	12:23 PM	12:17 AM
Saturday	1:20 PM	1:00 AM
Sunday	2:15 PM	1:42 AM
Monday	3:12 PM	2:24 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 5:55am 8:35am Daily DL297 3:35pm 6:15pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 10:00am 2:35pm Daily DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:10am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ606/703 2:20am 11:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/703 2:50am 11:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ608/705 3:20am 12:10am+1 1, 5 via PUS C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ706/607 3:35am 2:20am+1 4, 7 via PUS C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ606/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 4, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05am 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/605 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Responders take part in water plane crash exercise



Boating Safety officers launch a rescue boat at the Smiling Cove Marina yesterday morning for a search and rescue exercise. **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Different local enforcement agencies successfully responded yesterday to a mock water landing of an airplane as part of a planned exercise on how to do search and rescue operations in the open ocean.

Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section officer-in-charge Sgt. Bernard Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that the local responders did a good job as they completed the search and rescue exercise in just two hours.

"Everybody did their part," he said.

Santos said the U.S. Coast Guard, which coordinated the scenario, only underscored the need for the responders to work on the communications system.

Santos said the descriptions of the victim should be given to the responders.

Santos said the scenario was that the Commonwealth Ports Authority's tower received a call

about an airplane that crashed in the waters west of Saipan. The Emergency Management Office or the Department of Public Safety then receives the report, initiating the search and rescue operation.

Boating Safety Section officers immediately responded, along with personnel from the CPA Ports Police, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

"They went out and rescued the pilot, who was the only victim. He was in a life jacket and floating in the water," Santos said.

He said the pilot, who was conscious, was transported to the Smiling Cove Marina where medics gave him first aid, then transported him to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Santos said Guam was also contacted for helicopter assistance, but there was no need because the local responders immediately located the pilot.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Puengin Inetnon set tomorrow

Puengin Inetnon will be held this Friday at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market and takes place every government payday. It begins at 4:30pm and ends at 10pm.

This week's vendors feature Canton Restaurant, Lynn's Barbecue, Fong's Bakery, Champ's Shave Ice, and The Library Bookmobile.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 or e-mail kagmankomunitatassociation@gmail.com. **(PR)**

MRCDC meeting on today

The Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council will hold a meeting/ teleconference today, May 20, 5pm-6pm at the NRCS Saipan Service Center, DY building, Beach Road in southern Garapan. The public is invited. Call (671) 472-7447 for information, participation on Tinian, Rota, and Guam, or special accommodation for disability. **(PR)**

DPS sets seatbelt, child seat checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting Occupant Protection Child Restraint checkpoints on the island of Rota on May 25 and 27.

The May 25, 2010 OP/CR checkpoint will first be held along San Francisco Highway Songsong Village by the Pinatang Park, from 6am to about 7:15am. The second will be in District #4 across the Aquarius Bar & Grill, from 9am to about

10:15am.

On May 27, the checkpoint will be held along Sinapalo I Village by the San Isidro Church, from 6am to 7:15am. **(DPS)**

Additional NMC English placement tests set

Additional English placement tests for the Northern Marianas College have been scheduled for the following date and times:

May 20: 1pm-4pm, Room A-9

5pm-8pm, Room A-9

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call James Kline at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242. **(PR)**

MHS Japan Club sets Saturday lunch sale

The 2010 Marianas High School Japan Club will be having a lunch sale this Saturday, May 22. The Club is offering fried chicken, barbecued ribs, coco, red rice and a drink for the price of \$5. Proceeds will go toward the class trip to Tokyo in June.

For orders or more information contact Jim Tuttle at jimbotuttle@yahoo.com or 237-3268. The MHS Japan Club would like to thank you for your kind assistance in helping their MHS students reach their dream of going to Japan.

Editorial team here to update Marianas travel guidebook

The Marianas Visitors Authority, Asiana Airlines, and Northern Marianas hotels partner this month on an update to the Korean version of the *My Marianas Travel Guidebook*. The new edition of the guidebook will be released in September to tour operators, media, key consumers, and corporations in Korea, where in recent months travel to the Northern Marianas has shown recovery alongside the country's economy.

A photographer and editor from Korea are in the Northern Marianas to begin updating the 132-page annual publication, which covers accommodation, transportation, festivals/events, attractions and travel tips to Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The initial print of the book will be 10,000 copies.

"The *My Marianas Travel Guidebook* provides the most up-to-date travel and tourism information for the Northern Marianas," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Produced regularly and updated each year, it also provides an excellent opportunity for tourism-related businesses in the Northern Marianas to reach potential visitors."

NMI students to take part in mock trial play of 'Puntan Dos Amantes'

CNMI students will participate with Guam students in a mock trial play about the legend of Two Lovers' Point on May 28, 2010, Friday, at 8:30am, as part of the CNMI and Guam Law Week Celebration.

Eighth grade students from Hopwood Junior High, under the leadership of principal Jonas M. Barcinas, will act as jurors in the play, *Puntan Dos Amantes*, which will be performed by eighth grade students from Guam's Agueda Johnston Middle School under the supervision of teacher Benjie Santiago.

The Guam students will perform the play at the U.S. District Court of Guam courtroom, and the play will be televised to the students at the U.S. District Court of the



MVA

From left, editor Jomin Jun, Marianas Visitors Authority Korea PR manager Minji Kim, and photographer Soom Jung visit Carolinas Nature Trail on Tinian on May 10, 2010, in preparation for the updated 2010 Korean version of the *My Marianas Travel Guidebook*. The book will be released by the MVA in September 2010 in Korea to tour operators, media, customers, and corporations.

The editorial team has stayed at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Rota Resort and Country Club, Mariana Resort and Palms Resort Saipan during their visit. Their itinerary has included numerous scenic,

cultural, and historic locations on all three islands. They are also visiting many restaurants, stores, and bars and are participating in various outdoor activities available for visitors. Last Saturday, May 15,

they covered the MVA's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

The team departs today, May 20, for Korea where they will begin assembling the new guide. **(MVA)**

Northern Mariana Islands. The NMI students will render a verdict at the conclusion of the trial.

The Hopwood students will decide the fate of Spanish Capt. Don Quiroga, who is accused of the murders of Isa and Tasi, the two lovers of the Guam legend. The play of the Spanish Captain interprets the local Guam legend about Puntan Dos Amantes. It was written by two Guam Supreme Court attorneys, and its retelling preserves the rich cultural heritage of the Mariana Islands.

"The ability to video conference the trial brings our island communities closer, provides greater access to the legal system, and serves to educate our children about the importance of maintaining the rule of law," said

acting Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro.

Following the play, and a discussion of the verdict, the students will be able to tour their respective courthouses.

This event is made possible by the joint efforts of the federal District Courts and the local courts of Guam and the CNMI.

Castro recognized the assistance of Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood of the U.S. District Court of Guam, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres of the Guam Supreme Court, as well as Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the CNMI Superior Court, Clerk of Court Galo Perez of the U.S. District Court of the NMI, and Jeanne Quinata of the U.S. District Court of Guam.

The public is welcome to attend. **(PR)**

Business

Toyota to recall 4,500 Lexus vehicles in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota said Wednesday it will recall 4,500 Lexus vehicles in Japan to fix a computerized steering problem, with another 7,000 vehicles overseas also likely affected.

The world's biggest automaker has received 12 complaints about the problem within Japan, but knows of no accidents that it has caused worldwide, according to spokesman Paul Nolasco.

After being hit with a record \$16.4 million fine in the U.S. and facing strong government criticism both at home and abroad for slow responses to safety problems, Toyota Motor Corp. is working to react more quickly. The company on Tuesday paid the fine in the U.S., where it still faces hundreds of state and federal lawsuits.

The latest issue affects Toyota's luxury Lexus "LS" line, and involves a computerized system that oversees how the



In this April 13, 2010 file photo, a red 2010 Lexus GX 460 is seen at a dealership, with other Lexus vehicles behind it, in Portland, Maine.

steering wheel controls the tires. The Lexus line is Toyota's top-priced luxury sedan brand, and includes the "LS 600h" hybrid.

In addition to the 4,500 cars sold in Japan, about 7,000 have been sold abroad, including about 3,800 in the U.S., 150 in Europe and 800 in China, with others sold in areas such as the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Australia.

The steering system comes

as standard in Japanese models, but is optional in some other regions. It varies the amount that the steering wheel turns the tires on a car, allowing drivers to turn the wheel less at low speeds when attempting to navigate or park in tight spots and providing finer control at high speeds.

The system can take "a few seconds" to return the steering to normal after it has been ad-

justed, which led to complaints from drivers, Nolasco said.

He said Toyota was preparing to conduct a recall in Japan soon, but wasn't sure of the exact timing.

The company is looking to demonstrate it can respond rapidly to problems in its cars. Toyota is currently facing a new investigation by authorities in the U.S. because it waited a

year to recall vehicles there after a similar recall in Japan, despite dozens of reports of problems from American drivers.

Toyota quickly recalled about 10,000 Lexus SUVs in April in the U.S. after Consumer Reports magazine put a "Don't Buy" recommendation on them for failing an emergency handling test. The magazine lifted the warning after the recall, which applied to about 34,000 vehicles worldwide.

Toyota has recalled more than 8 million vehicles worldwide for safety defects affecting some of its best-selling models. The U.S. Transportation Department is reviewing thousands of Toyota documents and could issue new penalties for the company's handling of other safety recalls.

The recalls have prompted the first major review of U.S. auto safety laws in Congress since tire recalls by Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. in 2000.

Interior secretary acknowledges lax oil regulation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Grilled by skeptical lawmakers, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Tuesday acknowledged his agency had been lax in overseeing offshore drilling activities and that contributed to the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There will be tremendous lessons to be learned here,"

Salazar told a Senate panel in his first appearance before Congress since the April 20 blowout and explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig. Describing pending reforms in the Interior Department, Salazar cited a "collective responsibility" for the spill that included the federal agency he manages, he said.

His appearances before two of the three Senate panels holding hearings Tuesday on the giant oil spill came as federal officials kept a wary eye on the expanding dimensions of the problem. The government increased the area of the Gulf where fishing is shut down to 46,000 square miles, or about 19 percent of

federal waters. That's up from about 7 percent before.

Government scientists were anxiously surveying the Gulf to determine if the oil had entered a powerful current that could take it to Florida and eventually up the East Coast. Tar balls that washed up on Florida's Key West were shipped to a Coast Guard labora-

tory in Connecticut to determine if they came from the Gulf spill.

Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen told the Senate Commerce Committee the growing size and scattershot nature of the oil spill was creating "severe challenges" in containing it and cleaning it up. He called it more complicated than any spill he's ever seen.

Deadly Thailand violence forces business rethink

BANGKOK (AP)—Deadly street battles that have turned parts of the Thai capital into urban war zones are threatening to chill foreign investment for years, hobbling a nation once among the region's fastest growing but now losing its edge over rivals like Vietnam.

Some companies that can transfer operations easily—in industries like services and light manufacturing—have already started moving operations out of the country, and longer-term investors are seriously rethinking making new commitments.

On Wednesday, the government launched a new crackdown on the protests that have occupied downtown Bangkok for weeks. Thai troops opened fire into the protesters' fortified encampment, tearing down a part of its tire-and-bamboo barricade. At least two people have died and four hospitalized, adding to a death toll of 66 people since the "Red Shirts" began their latest protests in March, seeking to oust the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Rules proposed for avoiding another 'flash crash'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Regulators and market players still don't know exactly what caused the hair-raising "flash crash" on Wall Street but they've already come up with new rules they hope will avoid a repeat.

U.S. stock exchanges would briefly halt trading of some

stocks that have big price swings under the new trading rules proposed Tuesday that are aimed at avoiding market plunges like the one that stunned Wall Street on May 6.

The rules would take effect in mid-June under a six-month pilot program agreed to by

major U.S. exchanges and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Under the plan, trading of any Standard & Poor's 500 stock that rises or falls 10 percent or more within a five-minute span would be halted for five minutes. These rules, known as "circuit

breakers," would be applied if the price swing occurs between 9:45 a.m. and 3:35 p.m. Eastern time. That's almost the entire trading day.

On May 6, about 30 stocks listed in the S&P 500 index fell at least 10 percent within five minutes.

Oil falls below \$69 to 8-month low on Europe fears

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to below \$69 a barrel Wednesday in Asia, extending losses to an eight-month low as mixed U.S. crude supply figures failed to stem a two week sell-off. Benchmark crude for June delivery was down 81 cents to \$68.60 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 54 cents to settle at \$69.41 on Tuesday. Oil has plunged more than 20 percent from \$87.15 a barrel on May 3 on investor concern that efforts to contain Europe's debt crisis could fail and deep government spending cuts will hurt economic growth and oil demand.

Wal-Mart profit rises, but US sales in squeeze

NEW YORK (AP)—The recovering U.S. economy may be a mixed blessing for Wal-Mart. Wealthier customers who turned to the world's largest retailer during the Great Recession appear to be trading back up, and stubbornly high unemployment and gas prices are still squeezing its main customers, who are having more trouble stretching their dollars to the next payday. The squeeze hasn't

hurt its profits. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. posted a 10 percent increase in first-quarter net income Tuesday, but that was driven by cost-cutting and growth overseas. Wal-Mart also offered a muted outlook for the second quarter. Still, its shares rose more than 2 percent, or \$1.29, to \$53.99 after its results beat Wall Street expectations. U.S. Walmart stores are seeing fewer customers. To win them back, Wal-Mart announced another round of price cuts on groceries Tuesday and said it's scrambling to restock some products it eliminated over the past year as part of its campaign to declutter stores.

HP net income surges amid mending computer market

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co.'s latest numbers show how deeply dependent the company is on personal computers even as it aggressively expands into more lucrative areas. HP reported after the stock market closed Tuesday that its net income jumped 28 percent and revenue rose 13 percent in the February-April period, both signs that increased demand for computers is helping heal a battered technology industry. The numbers beat Wall Street's forecasts

and HP raised its 2010 revenue and adjusted profit forecasts, sending its shares higher. HP earned \$2.2 billion, or 91 cents per share, in its fiscal second quarter, which ended April 30. It earned \$1.7 billion, or 71 cents per share, in the same period last year.

Yahoo buys freelance news site Associated Content

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc. is buying freelance news site Associated Content in a deal that will add a more folksy touch to one of the world's biggest Web sites. Financial terms weren't disclosed. The acquisition announced Tuesday will enable Yahoo to supplement its regular lineup of stories by full-time reporters with independently produced material that typically isn't covered by traditional media outlets. Associated Content, launched in 2005 by Luke Beatty, bills itself as "the people's media company." It has developed a low-cost news model that relies on about 380,000 freelancers who share their expertise on a variety of subjects. The material includes how-to advice, review, opinion pieces and coverage about what's happening in neighborhoods around the United States.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

	AUSTRALIA 4,425.60 Down 74.40 (-1.65%)
	HONG KONG 19,732.15 Down 212.79 (-1.07%)
	JAKARTA 2,785.68 Down 48.50 (-1.71%)
	TOKYO 10,171.32 Down 71.32 (-0.70%)
	K. LUMPUR 1,321.57 Down 8.60 (-0.65%)
	MANILA 3,222.19 Down 42.88 (-1.31%)
	SINGAPORE 2,803.37 Down 40.98 (-1.44%)
	SEOUL 1,629.00 Down 14.24 (-0.87%)
	BANGKOK 765.54 Up 5.43 (+0.71%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,510.95
-1.08%

S&P
1,120.80
-1.42%

NASDAQ
2,317.26
-1.57%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1710
British Pound	0.7003
Canadian Dollar	1.0435
Chinese Yuan	6.8320
Euro	0.8217
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7990
Indian Rupee	46.0000
Indonesian Rupiah	9,183.5000
Japanese Yen	91.8750
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2475
New Zealand Dollar	1.4584
Philippine Peso	45.5450
Singapore Dollar	1.4000
South Korean Won	1,146.4000
Swiss Franc	1.1515
Taiwan Dollar	31.9705
Thailand Baht	32.3700

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Times Square car bomb suspect appears in NY court

NEW YORK (AP)—The suspect in a botched car bombing in Times Square appeared in court Tuesday on terrorism and weapons charges for the first time since his arrest two weeks ago and was quickly led away in handcuffs after being held without bail.

Faisal Shahzad, a Pakistan-born U.S. citizen, muttered one word at the 10-minute hearing—"yes"—when asked to confirm an affidavit about his financial status, which allowed him to have a public defender appointed.

Shahzad, wearing a gray sweatshirt and with his hair a bit longer than in photos splashed around the world, was handcuffed behind his back and led out of court after a magistrate read him his rights.

His attorney, Julia Gatto, asked during the hearing if Shahzad could be provided with halal meals, according to Muslim dietary laws that govern how food is prepared. She didn't comment afterward and didn't immediately return an e-mail message.

The federal courtroom had extra officers on hand and was emptied for a security sweep immediately before the hearing.

Shahzad, 30, of Bridgeport, Conn., was arrested May 3 on a Dubai-bound plane at John F. Kennedy International Airport on charges that he drove an SUV rigged with a homemade car bomb into Times Square two nights earlier, sending thousands of tourists into a panic on a busy Saturday night. The



In this courtroom sketch, defendant Faisal Shahzad sits with assistant public defender Julia Gatto, left, during his arraignment in federal court in New York on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, in New York.

Congress: US repeated 9/11 slips in Christmas plot

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite a top-to-bottom overhaul of the intelligence community after the 2001 terrorist attacks, the nation's security system showed some of the same failures when it allowed a would-be bomber to slip aboard an airliner, congressional investigators said Tuesday.

The Senate Intelligence Committee report at times contradicted the Obama administration's assertion that the nearly catastrophic Christmas Day bombing attempt was unlike 9/11 because it represented a failure to understand intelligence, not a failure to collect and understand it.

The congressional review is more stark than the Obama administration's report. It lays much of the blame at the feet of the National Counterterrorism Center, which Congress created to be the primary agency in charge of analyzing terrorism intelligence.

"NCTC personnel had the responsibility and the capability to connect the key reporting with the other relevant reporting," the congressional summary said. "The NCTC was not adequately organized and did not have resources appropriately allocated to fulfill its missions."

The NCTC is the government's clearinghouse for terrorism information and is the only government agency that can access all intelligence and law enforcement information.

Lawmakers found that the NCTC was not organized to be the sole agency in charge or piecing together terrorism threats.

"Some of the systemic errors this review identified also were cited as failures prior to 9/11," Republican Sens. Richard Burr and Saxby Chambliss wrote in an addendum to the report.

bomb didn't explode, and no one was hurt.

Authorities say the former budget analyst had voluntarily waived his rights to an initial court appearance while he was cooperating. His decision to talk to investigators without an appearance that normally happens a day or do after arrest was allowed by law but is uncommon for a suspect without a formal plea deal with prosecutors. Shahzad didn't enter a plea Tuesday to any of the five felony counts against him.

Since his arrest, Shahzad "has provided valuable intelligence from which further investigative action has been taken," the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan said in a statement. The investigation continues, the statement said.

Shahzad is charged with attempted use of weapons of mass destruction and attempting acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries, each carrying a maximum life term; using a destructive device in an attempted violent crime, punishable by up to 30 years in prison; transporting and receiving explosives, punishable by up to 10 years; and attempting to damage and destroy property with fire and explosives, punishable by five to 20 years.

Authorities said shortly after Shahzad's arrest that he had admitted driving the SUV bomb into Times Square and told authorities he had received terror training during a recent five-month trip to Pakistan.

Oil spill shuts down 19 percent of Gulf fishing

PENSACOLA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—The sign outside the Pensacola Beach marina says "We're Still Fishing," but that's not really true.

The federal government announced Tuesday it was nearly tripling the size of an area in the Gulf of Mexico that's closed to fishing because of a massive oil spill off the coast of Louisiana.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said it had closed nearly 46,000 square miles, or about 19 percent of federal waters.

That's up from the 7 percent of the Gulf that's been closed to fishing boats since shortly after an offshore oil rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers. Rig operator BP PLC estimates that the blown-out well has leaked more than 5 million gallons.

The spill has scared off charter fishing customers at the marina here, even though the water they'd normally trawl is still open. The 30 boats were almost all tied to their slips Tuesday and Jerry Andrews, the captain of the Entertainer, had the dock to himself.

"Usually you'd see 15 or 20

people walking up and down out here asking about the fishing. Three-fourths of these slips would be empty," said Andrews, a Pensacola native who has been fishing here for 34 years.

The expanded ban covers an area that starts near the Louisiana coast and moves southeast

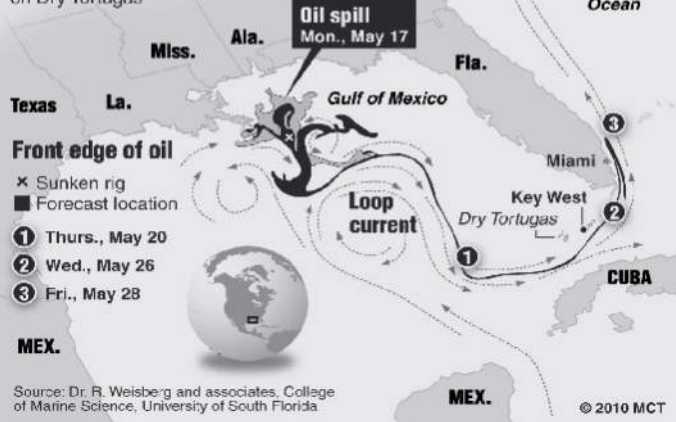
in a diagonal line. From Mississippi to Pensacola, the ban starts about 30 miles offshore. It begins moving away from shore at the Florida-Alabama border. At its eastern end south of Apalachicola, about the midpoint of the Florida Panhandle, the ban starts about 160 miles offshore.

Oil spill caught in loop current

Ocean scientists predict the Gulf of Mexico's strong loop current will bring some oil to Key West by the weekend.

Oil in the loop
• Scientists can't say how much oil will drift into the loop
• Most of the oil is still near sunken rig

Tuesday Tar balls found on Key West; oil residue seen further west on Dry Tortugas



Big political jolts: Specter loses, Paul wins

WASHINGTON (AP)—Party-switching Sen. Arlen Specter fell to a younger and far less experienced rival in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary, and political novice Rand Paul rode support from tea party activists to a Republican rout in Kentucky on Tuesday, the latest jolts to the political establishment in a tumultuous midterm election season.

In another race with national significance, Democrat Mark Critz won a special House election to fill out the term of the late Democratic Rep. John Murtha in southwestern Pennsylvania. The two political parties spent roughly \$1 million apiece hoping to sway the outcome there, and highlighted the contest as a possible bellwether for the fall when all 435 House seats will be on the ballot.

On the busiest night of the primary season to date, Arkansas Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln was forced into a potentially debilitating June runoff election against Lt. Gov. Bill Halter in her bid for nomination to a third term. Rep. John Boozman won the Republican line on the ballot outright.

Taken together, the evening's results were indisputably unkind to the political establishments of both parties—with more contested primaries yet to come, particularly among Republicans.

But any attempt to read into the results a probable trend for the fall campaign was hazardous—particularly given Critz's victory over Republican Tim Burns to succeed Democrat Murtha in Congress.

Specter, seeking his sixth term and first as a Democrat, fell to two-term Rep. Joe Sestak, who spent three decades in the Navy before entering politics. Sestak was winning 54 percent of the vote to 46 percent for Specter. He told cheering supporters his triumph marked a "win for the people over the establishment, over the status quo, even over Washington, D.C."

Sestak's campaign calling card was a television commercial that showed former President George W. Bush saying he could count on Specter, then a Republican, and then had Specter saying he had switched parties so he could win re-election.

ACROSS THE NATION

Kagan papers emerge amid questions on abortion

WASHINGTON (AP)—A senior House Democrat said Tuesday that senators should fully question Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan to make sure she supports abortion rights, in light of her previous backing for limiting late-term abortions. In a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York said she views as "troubling" a 1997 memo Kagan wrote urging then-President Bill Clinton to back a ban on all abortions of viable fetuses except when the physical health of the mother was at risk. Slaughter, the co-chair of the House Pro-Choice Caucus, wrote that the lack of a judicial record for Kagan, who has never been a judge, makes it imperative that the committee scrutinize her abortion views. Kagan, President Barack Obama's choice to succeed retiring Justice John Paul Stevens, was a domestic policy adviser to Clinton when she wrote the memo Slaughter cited. That memo is part of a trove of documents, most of them unreleased, at the Clinton presidential library in Little Rock, Ark.

Blumenthal denies trying to mislead on Vietnam

WESTHARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Trying to defuse a crisis that could give the GOP a powerful opening, Democratic Senate candidate Richard Blumenthal said Tuesday that he "misspoke" in claiming more than once that he served in Vietnam, and he dismissed the furor as a matter of "a few misplaced words." At a news conference where he surrounded himself with veterans, the Connecticut attorney general and far-and-away front-runner to replace retiring Democrat Christopher Dodd said he meant to say he served "during" Vietnam instead of "in" Vietnam. He said the statements were "totally unintentional" errors that occurred only a few times out of hundreds of public appearances. Democrats in Connecticut and Washington stood by Blumenthal, and neither party said the incident was enough to instantly sink his candidacy. But the controversy raised Republican hopes of taking a seemingly safe seat away from the Democrats and reducing their Senate majority.

Asia

Thai troops storm into Bangkok protest zone, 3 die



An anti-government protesters' barricade is crushed by an armored personnel carrier at Lumpini Park in downtown Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai soldiers with armored vehicles stormed into a fortified encampment occupied by anti-government protesters Wednesday, breaking through bamboo-and-tire barricades in a major military offensive in the heart of Bangkok.

At least two protesters were killed and one foreign journalist appeared dead after getting shot in the chest. Two other foreign journalists were wounded by bullets.

Surreal scenes of warfare erupted in one of the ritziest parts of the capital, as troops armed

with M-16s marched through the central business district past upscale apartment buildings to retake the area around manicured Lumpini Park, which has been under the control of protesters camped there for weeks.

Government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn declared the first stage of the army operation to secure the area around Lumpini Park successful and said that some protest leaders had fled. He asked the public to inform police if any of the leaders were spotted.

However, two of the three key

leaders remained in the protest zone giving defiant speeches and singing on a stage, as troops drew closer.

An Associated Press reporter who followed the troops into the protest camp saw the bodies of two men sprawled on the ground, one with a head wound and other apparently shot in the upper body. They were the first known casualties in the assault that began before dawn Wednesday on a 1-square kilometer (3-square kilometer) stretch of downtown Bangkok that protesters have occupied.

US: Insurgents attack Bagram Air Field

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Insurgents launched a brazen pre-dawn assault Wednesday against the giant U.S.-run Bagram Air Field, the second Taliban strike at NATO forces in and around the capital in as many days.

At least 10 insurgents have been killed so far in the "ongoing attack" on Bagram, which started at about 3 a.m. with rockets, small arms and grenades fired into the base, said Maj. Virginia McCabe, a spokeswoman for U.S. forces at Bagram. Seven

U.S. service members have been wounded, she said.

The attack came a one day after a suicide bomber struck a U.S. convoy in the capital of Kabul, killing 18 people. The dead included five American troops and a Canadian, making it the deadliest attack on NATO in the Afghan capital in eight months.

The back-to-back attacks appeared part of a Taliban offensive that the insurgents announced earlier this month—even as the U.S. and its partners

prepare for a major operation to restore order in the turbulent south. The insurgent attacks against both the capital and a major American military installation show the militants are prepared to strike at the heart of the U.S.-led mission.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for both the Kabul bombing and the attack at Bagram, 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Kabul. Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said 20 suicide attackers were involved.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan leader says China may dismantle missiles

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China could feel compelled to dismantle the more than 1,000 missiles it has pointed at Taiwan as relations between the rivals improve, the island's president said Wednesday. Ma Ying-jeou said the easing of tensions across the 100-mile-(160 kilometer-) wide Taiwan Strait makes it increasingly difficult for Beijing to justify its missile posture, particularly with thousands of mainland Chinese tourists arriving in Taiwan every day. Ma spoke at the midpoint of his four-year term, which has been characterized by a rapid expansion of trade and business ties with China, and a growing belief that an eventual peace treaty could be on the agenda if Ma's Nationalist Party retains the presidency in 2012.

Karzai's brother accused of influence-peddling

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Allegations of wrongdoing have swirled around Afghan President Hamid Karzai's half brother for years, but this time they are coming from inside the president's own Defense Ministry. The president, who defended his half brother from alleged criminal behavior on Tuesday, is being asked to investigate whether Ahmad Wali Karzai used his powerful sway to help friends and associates use and build profitable projects on government-owned land in a key city in the south. In a six-page report prepared for Maj. Gen. Sher Mohammad Zazi, the Afghan army commander in the south, the ministry said Ahmad Wali Karzai and other power brokers have taken over nearly 9,700 acres (more than 3,900 hectares)

of land in and around Kandahar that are owned by the ministry.

SKorean official says 'obvious' NKorea sank ship

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's foreign minister said Wednesday it was "obvious" that North Korea sank one of the South's warships in March, killing 46 sailors. Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan told reporters that investigators have enough evidence of North Korean involvement in the sinking of the Cheonan to take Pyongyang to the U.N. Security Council. Yu's comments are the first by a South Korean official clearly pointing the finger at North Korea for one of the worst attacks on the South since the two Koreas signed a truce in 1953 to end three years of fighting.

World

US gets China, Russia on board for Iran sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States introduced a United Nations resolution aimed at Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program on Tuesday, having won long-sought and pivotal support from China and Russia for new sanctions against its powerful Revolutionary Guard and new measures to try to curtail Iran's military, financial and shipping activities.

The agreement appeared to be a significant victory for the Obama administration, which has doggedly pursued sanctions since Iran rebuffed U.S. overtures last year.

The draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, would ban Iran from pursuing "any activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons," freeze assets of nuclear-related companies linked to the Revolutionary Guard, bar Iranian investment in activities such as uranium mining and prohibit Iran from buying several categories of heavy weapons.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said the resolution, backed by all five veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council, would give "greater teeth"

to existing sanctions and add "strong" new measures to intensify pressure on the Iranian government to resolve concerns that its nuclear program is peaceful and not aimed at producing nuclear weapons.

Russia and China, which have close ties to Iran, joined fellow permanent council members Britain, France and the United States as well as non-member Germany in supporting the sanctions proposal, ignoring a deal that Tehran struck with Turkey and Brazil a day earlier in an effort to stave off the penalties.

Detained militant in Iraq details World Cup plot

BAGHDAD (AP)—An alleged al-Qaida militant detained in Iraq said Tuesday he had talked to friends about attacking Danish and Dutch teams at the World Cup in South Africa next month to avenge insults against the Prophet Muhammad.

Iraqi security forces holding Saudi citizen identified as Abdullah Azam Saleh al-Qahtani arranged for The Associated

Press to interview him at an unidentified government building in Baghdad. He said he initially came to Iraq in 2004 to fight Americans and was recruited by al-Qaida.

An Iraqi security official with knowledge of the investigation said al-Qahtani was arrested after a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation in April that killed the two top al-Qaida in Iraq figures—Abu Ayyub

al-Masri and Abu Omar al-Baghadi. The official asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss details of the case.

Documents found in the house where they were killed, including a note written by al-Qahtani detailing a plan to launch attacks at the World Cup, led to his arrest on May 3. Iraqi authorities made it public on Monday.

Piracy suspect pleads guilty to hijack in NY court

NEW YORK (AP)—A Somali suspect who became the boyish face of 21st-century piracy by staging a brazen high-seas attack on a U.S.-flagged ship off the coast of Africa pleaded guilty on Tuesday to charges he hijacked the ship and kidnapped its captain.

Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse has been jailed in Manhat-

tan since he was captured last year and faced what was called the first U.S. piracy prosecution in decades.

"What we did was wrong," a subdued Muse said through an interpreter. "I am very, very sorry about what we did. All of this was about the problems in Somalia."

He also pleaded guilty to hostage-taking and conspir-

acy. He faces a minimum 27 years in prison. Sentencing was set for Oct. 19.

Prosecutors branded Muse the ringleader of a band of four pirates who provoked a deadly drama by targeting the Maersk Alabama on April 8, 2009, as it transported humanitarian supplies about 280 miles off the coast of Somalia.

ACROSS THE NATION

Haiti leader vows to step down with 'calm heart'

ARCAHAIE, Haiti (AP)—Surrounded by waving banners of blue and red, Haitian President Rene Preval pledged Tuesday to step down as scheduled next year, rebuking critics who say he is using the post-earthquake emergency to hold onto power. Preval told thousands celebrating Flag Day in the seaside town of Arcahaie that he will step down at the end of his term, Feb. 7. The two-term leader sparked protests this month when he adopted a decree that would extend his term by up to three months if a planned presidential election is not held by the end of November. "This is the last May 18 I will spend with you as president," Preval said. Pledging to pass his office to a successor on the constitutionally

mandated day, he added, "I will go and my heart will be calm."

Pakistani says false alarm led to Chile detention

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A Pakistani detained in Chile said Tuesday the positive test for explosive traces he registered at the U.S. Embassy was likely a false alarm and denied any wrongdoing. He said he holds no ill will toward America. Mohammad Saif Ur Rehman Khan was detained May 10 after the embassy said tests detected explosive traces on his cell phone and papers. Chilean authorities said they later found traces of the same substance on items in his apartment and charged him with possessing explosives. The 28-year-old read a statement in English to reporters outside the public defenders

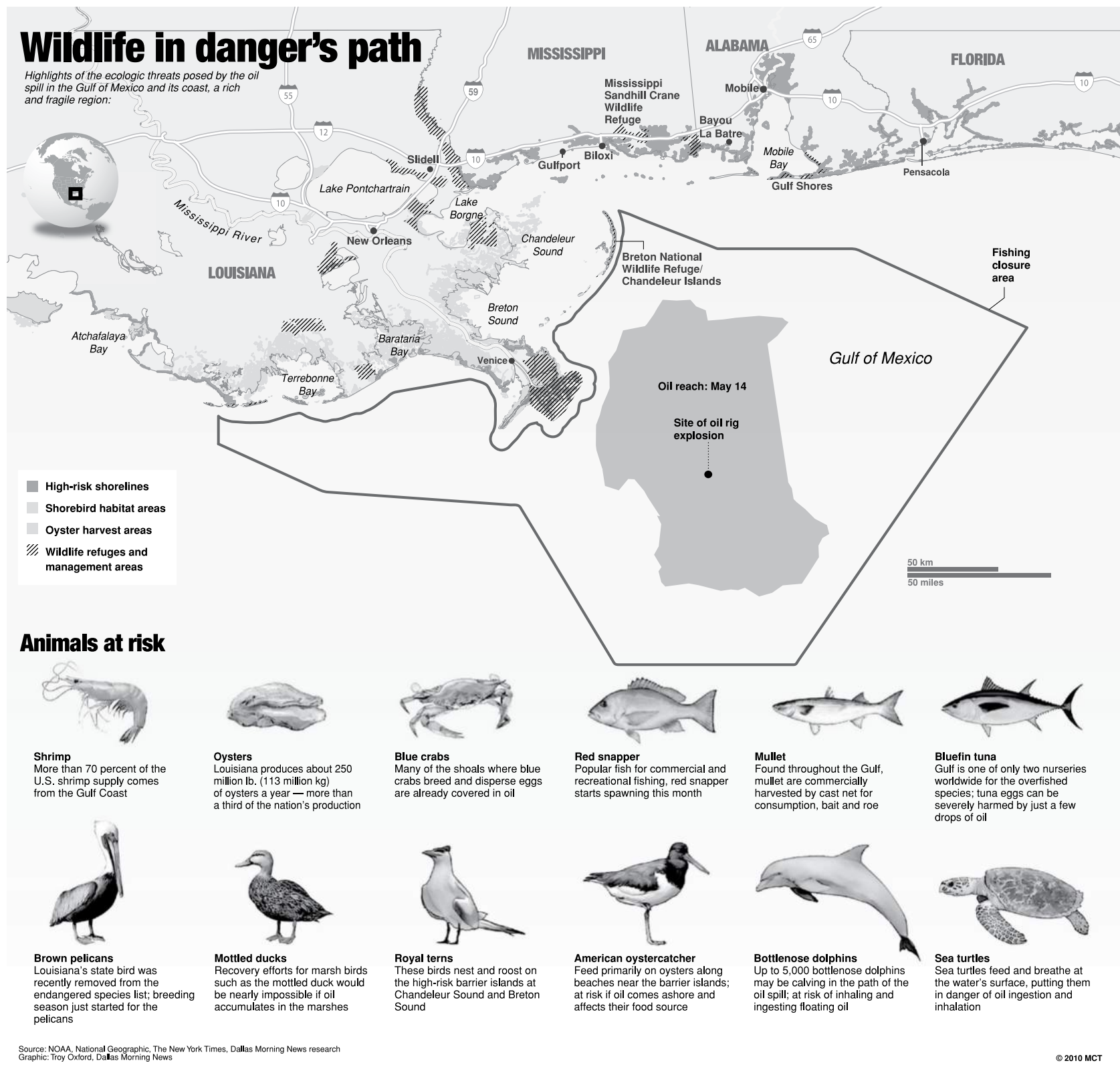
office Tuesday, professing his innocence and calling the allegations against him "baseless and false." He said the case appeared "to have stemmed from a false alarm."

Mexican town's police force quits after ambush

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Most of a small Mexican town's police force has quit after armed men ambushed and wounded two of their officers. The resignation of six of the 11 municipal officers in La Union Monday evening comes after several other Mexican towns have seen mass police resignations because of cartel violence or threats. State police in Guerrero, which La Union is located, said Tuesday that it has deployed 20 of its officers to patrol La Union until further notice.

Focus

Scientists uncertain about oil spill's effects on Florida



By **CURTIS MORGAN**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MIAMI—With the first tendrils of a monstrous slick creeping into the Loop Current, the impacts of the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster soon could be felt from the reefs of the Florida Keys to the beaches of Miami-Dade and Broward counties and beyond.

Or perhaps hardly felt at all.

Much like engineers concocting schemes to cap BP's deep-sea gusher, scientists also are working uncharted waters, struggling for fundamental answers about a spill unlike any before it: How much oil is really floating on the surface? How much lies beneath? Will a little or a lot get pulled into the Loop?

Without those answers and many more, experts admit they can only spec-

ulate about what the pipeline of current might pump into the Florida Straits. Best case: More tar balls like the ones washing up this week from Dry Tortugas National Park to Bahia Honda. Worst: Submerged clouds of toxic oil and chemical dispersant poisoning reefs.

For South Florida, it's a sliding scale most scientists put closer to ugly annoyance than ecological catastrophe, but also warn could wind up anywhere between.

"We just don't have enough information to make very wise guesses about what's going to happen," said Richard Dodge, dean of Nova Southeastern's Oceanographic Center and head of the National Coral Reef Institute.

Some frustrated researchers contend a dearth of data from BP and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the science agency

charged with tracking the spill, is adding to the uncertainty of projecting and assessing damage.

"We have been screaming from day one for data," said Peter Ortnier, a fisheries biologist at the University of Miami who studies pelagic species such as the rare bluefin tuna in the Gulf. "What is the vertical distribution? What is the oil particle size? How is it changing over time?"

The blown-out well, which has spewed at least 5.5 million gallons of crude and likely multiple times more by some experts' estimates, already ranks among the nation's worst environmental catastrophes.

Oil thick as pudding has begun washing into the Mississippi Delta, a vast and rich brackish estuary—the absolute worst place for it. Marshes rank

as the most vulnerable of all habitats in an Environmental Sensitivity Index in the government's official oil response manual. Drifting across spawning grounds for bluefin tuna and other fish, the blob could wipe out larvae and much of the next generations.

With the well still gushing a month after the Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank, many scientists are more worried than ever. But they remain uncertain about potential ripple effects across the wider Gulf.

On Tuesday, NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco acknowledged what oceanographers in Florida and elsewhere had been saying for weeks: An eddy whirling off the Loop had sucked in "light oil" in the southern tip of the slick.

But Lubchenco downplayed any significant threat to Florida—at least an

imminent one. She said the bulk of the slick remained "dozens of miles" north of the Loop and the eddy also might spit it out back to the north. Still, NOAA forecast some small amount reaching waters off Key West within 10 days—twice the time predicted by a team from the University of South Florida.

Lubchenco said she expected dilution and weathering would reduce it to some combination of thin strips of mayonnaise-like ooze mixed with tar balls, much like suspect blobs scooped up this week in the Lower Keys. Some 20 from Key West's Fort Zachary Taylor were shipped to a Connecticut lab to determine if they're from the spill or a passing ship.

She also cast some doubt on a discovery of vast oil plumes suspended deep below the surface—raising the specter of an unseen menace potentially as damaging as the surface slick, particularly to reefs and bottom life.

The working theory of researchers is that chemical dispersants, applied experimentally at the seafloor in hopes of reducing the growing slick, broke some oil into fine droplets that remain trapped by denser or colder sea water above. Lubchenco called their find an "anomaly" that needs further analysis, but said her agency was going to devote more resources to sub-surface impacts.

At 2,000 and 4,000 feet, whatever is there would be out of the influence of the shallower Loop Current, the University of Miami's Ortnier said.

"If you really break this stuff up, it could be there for months," he said. "It might never get out of the Gulf of Mexico."

It could also slowly rise over time, but nobody knows for sure because nobody has even recorded such plumes before.

"Not to my knowledge," said Poojitha Yapa, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., who developed the computer modeling NOAA uses to track the slick.

A model is only as good as what goes into it, and most spill science has focused on a surface slick relatively easy to track. What goes on beneath the waves—particularly in the deep ocean where crushing pressures and frigid water change the behavior of oil—isn't well understood or been widely studied.

Much of the data for Yapa's model, developed in the late 1990s, came from an industry-backed test off Norway called Project Deep Spill. The current spill presents an array of unforeseen complexities, he said—a slick of both old oil and new, constantly replenished for a month, and perhaps much longer, from a source a mile down.

Now, he said, he's conferring daily with NOAA to improve the model, pumping in new data, which he said NOAA asked him not to discuss.

In another media conference Tuesday, a team of federal wildlife scientists said the slick would generate groundbreaking research as it exacts a toll they expect to be significant and ripple through the Gulf for decades.

In the end, scientists will likely chronicle only a small fraction of the expected turtle and bird deaths, said Barbara Schroeder, NOAA fisheries national sea turtle coordinator.

"Most of those mortalities will never make their way to shore to be counted," she said.

Environment

Students explore environmental topics at 2010 Rota Expo



Rota Expo exhibitors from resources agencies and organizations on Rota and Saipan.

ROTA— Known for its lush green forest and pristine beaches, Rota is an ideal place to learn about conservation and environmental sciences. On Thursday students explored these subjects with biologists, field experts and resources managers at the 2010 Rota Expo.

The Expo at Northern Marianas College introduced students to a variety of subjects, ranging from wildlife conservation to forest restoration to marine monitoring. The event was a follow-up to the Saipan Environmental Expo at American Memorial Park.

“This is one way to educate our young community; through this effort hopefully our children will be prepared and be educated about the environment that surrounds our island,” said DLNR Rota Resident Director Joey Quitagua. “If we are to stop the illegal activity I believe that we have to start with our children. We must teach them that everything from the fanihi,



Department of Land and Natural Resource staff on Rota educate students about land surveying.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

hope that the students will bring what they’ve learn home and eventually educated their parents as well.”

About 150 Sinapalo Elementary and Rota Junior High School students in the 5th, 7th and 8th grades visited the expo. The coordinating resource agencies plan to collaborate on simi-

the aga, and all other wildlife are responsible for the reforestation. These animals basically transport seeds that will eventually find its way to the ground, and grow into beautiful green fruit producing trees.”

Quitagua continued, “Our community must take action and be proactive in the effort to stop the burning of our forest. Illegal activities such as burning basically cause a lot of damage not only our forest, but the animals both on land and in water. I



Forester James Manglona, DLNR Rota, displaying plants and discussing the importance of reforestation.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Phil Hannon educating students about the Mariana Crow, an endangered species. Possible reasons for the decline of M. crows include inbreeding, competition with other birds, introduced predators (cats, rats), and human causes (clearing of land, traffic on roads near nest, burning and poaching).



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Wildlife biologist Julia Boland teaching students about Fanihi (Mariana Fruit Bat) conservation. The exhibit displayed a live Fanihi. Due to issues such as habitat loss and poaching, the species is listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

lar events in the future, focused on making stronger connections between CNMI educational standards and benchmarks and exhibit topics.

Participating agencies and individuals included:

- Department of Lands and Natural Resources - Rota
- Department of Community

and Cultural Affairs – Rota

■ Fanihi and Mariana Crow Conservation on Rota – Julia Boland and Phil Hannon

■ Coastal Resources Management – Saipan

■ Division of Environmental Quality – Saipan

■ NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office – Saipan (**PR**)

DO YOUR PART

Mosquitoes be gone



Mosquitoes are a pain (literally) and they can be carriers of dangerous blood borne illnesses. Protecting yourself from these annoying pests is important. Do Your Part to minimize your exposure without running for a can of chemicals.

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Mosquitoes aren’t just annoying and irritating, they also can be dangerous. In the worst cases, mosquitoes can spread diseases such as West Nile Virus. But more than likely, mosquito bites can simply ruin an evening outdoors if you’re not prepared. But before you spray chemicals that can be toxic to you and the environment you should know that there are natural, safe solutions that will keep these bloodsucking pests away.

PREVENTION

The best way to keep mosquitoes away is to prevent them from showing up in the first place. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Without standing water, there’s no place for new mosquitoes to hatch. Mosquito eggs grow from larvae to adults in just seven days so it’s important to check for standing water in and around our yards after every rain. Forgotten toys, clogged gutters, and planter saucers are just a few of the sources of standing water in our yards. If you have standing water in a rain barrel or other water feature, you can kill mosquito larvae by using naturally occurring bacteria that is safe for people, pets, fish or wildlife. It’s called bacillus thuringiensis israelensis or Bti for short. It comes in pellets or small bagel shaped discs called mosquito dunks and is carried by most garden centers.

PREDATORS

Bats are natural predators of mosquitoes and can devour hundreds of mosquitoes a night. Invite bats to your yard by hanging a bat house in your yard. You can find bat houses at local garden or hardware centers.

DETERRENTS

Citronella oil, cedar oil and even catnip oil have been shown to help keep mosquitoes at bay. Lemon eucalyptus oil is also effective and is endorsed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention as an effective alternative to products containing 10 percent or less DEET, the active chemical ingredient of most insect repellants. While lemon eucalyptus oil alone will be effective, you can now find many store-bought repellents that contain the natural oil instead of DEET.

It’s also important to know that mosquitoes are not strong fliers. Use a fan to create a breeze that will keep the biting pests away.

MEDICINE

If you do get bitten, a simple paste of baking soda and water applied to the area will reduce itching. Over the counter products like Caladryl or Calamine lotion work well too.

Life & Style

BEIJING (AP)—They were members of a modern-day swingers' club in China, where people met online and then gathered in homes or hotels for group sex parties involving dozens of men and women.

Last month, Ma Yaohai, a 53-year-old college professor and 21 others went on trial in the southeastern city of Nanjing, accused of "group licentiousness"—the first time anyone has been charged under a 1997 law in a case that has snagged huge public interest with its titillating details.

But aside from rampant curiosity in the swinger lifestyle, the uproar also has touched off a deeper debate about sexual freedom in a nation that is trying to reshape its own modern morality.

Ma said his decision to join the swingers was voluntary. "Marriage is like water. You have to drink it. Swinging is like a cup of wine. You can drink it if you like. If you don't like it, don't drink it," he said in interviews with Chinese media.

In arguing that his activities involved consenting adults meeting in nonpublic places, Ma's defiance seemed to strike a chord in an era of relative sexual freedom, where extramarital affairs and prostitution are common—drawing support from those who believe the Chinese government should stay out of the bedroom.

Entering the court at the start of the two-day trial on April 7, he blurted out, "How can I disturb social order? What happens in my house is a private matter."

A verdict on Ma, the only member to plead innocent, is expected Thursday from the Qinhuai District People's Court in Nanjing, said his attorney, Yao Yongan. The charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

Wife of RFK Jr. charged in NY with drunken driving

BEDFORD, N.Y. (AP)—The wife of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was charged with drunken driving after a police officer saw her run over a curb outside a suburban school, authorities said Tuesday.

Police had responded to the Kennedy home twice in the week before the arrest but said no crimes had been committed there.

Mary Richardson Kennedy, 50, was arrested Saturday with a blood-alcohol level of 0.11 percent, Sgt. Matt Dunn said. The legal limit is 0.08 percent.

Kennedy told police she was at the school in Bedford, about 45 miles north of New York City, to pick up people from a carnival, authorities said.



In this photo taken Wednesday April 7, 2010 and made available Tuesday May 18, 2010, Ma Yaohai, a 53-year-old college professor, center talks to the media before entering the courtroom in Nanjing in east China's Jiangsu province. AP

Ma was unavailable for comment because he is currently sequestered at his home, where he is caring for his elderly mother, under security surveillance, Yao said.

But in interviews ahead of his trial, Ma, who taught computer science at Nanjing University of Technology, declared his innocence: "I didn't do anything that hurt anybody else. I didn't force anyone else. Why is all the world focusing on me?"

Much of the public scrutiny has been on the lifestyle of "partner swapping," as it's known in Chinese. Newspapers have breathlessly noted the lurid details: The Internet chat room Ma set up for swingers was called "Traveling Couples," his personal sign-on was "bighornyfire," his orgies were sometimes held in the small apartment he shares with his Alzheimer's-stricken mother.

The twice-divorced college

professor became interested in swinging in 2003 after his marriages failed. He initially joined chat rooms on the Internet and set up his own online group in 2007, Yao said.

Eventually, 200 people joined the group, organizing activities 35 times between 2007 and 2009, Yao quoted his client as saying. Ma himself participated in 18 sessions. Members decided on their own where to meet, Yao said. Among the 14 men and eight women arrested were white-collar workers, taxi drivers and salesclerks.

His trial highlights the vast social changes that China has undergone in the decades since it embraced economic reform. "Sex liberation stymied by law," trumpeted a front-page article in the official China Daily, which ran an in-depth piece that questioned whether China's laws on sexual behavior are lagging behind the times.

In one call, Kennedy reported a dispute between children, Dickan said. The other visit resulted in a state domestic incident report, but there were "no crimes committed, no report of assault, no arrests and no need for follow-up," Dickan said. He declined to elaborate.

Police would not say whether anyone else was in the car when Kennedy was arrested or if she had a lawyer. There was no phone listing for the Kennedy home.

Robert Kennedy Jr. is the son of former Sen. Robert Kennedy and nephew of President John F. Kennedy. He did not immediately return a call to his White Plains office, where he works as an environmental attorney.



Kennedy

Officers had visited the Kennedy home twice in the last week, on May 10 and May 13, but Lt. Jeff Dickan said those visits were unrelated to the arrest.

China used the so-called charge of "hooliganism," a catchall term that criminalized everything from premarital sex to dancing with members of the other sex and listening to Western music. During the early 1980s, a woman was sentenced to death for participating in secret dance parties, according to the China Daily.

But with rising prosperity and an easing of government controls on personal freedoms, China has shifted toward a more progressive view on sex, though attitudes remain much more traditional in the countryside than in urban centers. Sex motels cater to college students who rent by the hour, pornography is widely available on the Internet, and radio and TV shows devoted to sex advice are highly popular.

Even public views on the once-taboo topic of homosexuality have changed, Li said. Sodomy was decriminalized in 1997, while a survey she conducted two years ago found that 91 percent of people believe gays should not face discrimination in the workplace.

The immense growth of the Internet in China has played a factor in giving niche groups a space to operate, she said. The largest online site about group sex, Happy Village, has more than 380,000 registered members.

Chinese attitudes toward sex have changed dramatically during the last 20 years, said sociologist Li Yinhe, China's most prominent sex expert. Even a generation ago, holding hands and kissing in public were virtually unheard of. These days, studies indicate that 60 to 70

percent of Chinese have had sex before marriage, up from 15 percent in 1989.

"In the past, any sex activity outside marriage was unacceptable among people and could be punished," said Li, a member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Alfredo Imperial Atrero

Also known as "Manung Fred or Fred Ritan Basa"

Was born to life on May 28, 1938
Was called to his eternal rest by Heavenly Father on May 14, 2010

In his new life, he now joins his:

WIFE: Rita Sablan Basa Atrero
SON: Joseph S. Basa
PARENTS: Osmundo/Petra Imperial Atrero
PARENTS-IN-LAW: Francisco Concepcion/Soledad Sablan Basa
SISTERS-IN-LAW: Rita S. Basa/Remedio N. Basa
BROTHERS-IN-LAW: Thomas & Joseph Basa/George P. Kaipat/Pedro SN. Lizama

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

CHILDREN AND IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:

Alma Atrero Heradora & Children
Oliver Atrero & Immediste Families (Philippines)
Richard S. & Bernie Igisaiar Basa (Muana B./Anthony Johnson-Aiyana & Anthony)
(Ricky Boy/Rose-Richelle) & (Crystal)
Leilani Basa & Khorsheed Alam (Raymond, Masud, Lorraine, Anthony, Ernest Jr.)
Fred Jr. & Eleanor Agulto Basa (Berita & Eljunita)

BROTHERS AND SISTERS-IN-LAW:

Francisco S. Basa & Children
Maria B. Lizama & Children
Vicente S. Basa & Children
Jose S. / Esther I. Basa & Children
Elizabeth B. Kaipat & Children
Ramon S./Josephine C. Basa & Children
Susana B. Basa & Children
Alicia S. Basa/ Gregorio P. Blas & Children
Edward S. /Concepcion B. Basa & Children
Helen S. Basa/Ahmad Al-Alou & Children
Virginia Obichang Basa & Children

NEPHEWS & RELATIVES:

Romeo/Nelly Imperial Sanchez & Children
Alfredo/Virginia Ayuyu Imperial & Children
Edgar/Rebecca Nakatsukasa Imperial & Children

Daily Masses is being Offered at Mt. Carmel Church on May 17th to May 21st, 2010, Monday thru Friday at 6:00am.

On SATURDAY, May 22nd, 2010, his remains will leave CHC MORGUE at 7:30 am and will be escorted to St. Jude Church. Eucharistic Celebration of Christian Burial at 10:00 am at St. Jude Church. Interment will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

He will be missed by his numerous friends and relatives.

Un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I Famagu'on yan I Familia.

'Idol' judges back Bowersox, DeWyze for finale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Casey James only had an all right night on "American Idol."

The judges didn't back the soulful 27-year-old musician from Fort Worth, Texas, on the Fox singing contest Tuesday, the final showdown before next week's season finale. His mellow renditions of Eric Hutchinson's "OK, It's Alright With Me" and John Mayer's "Daughters," which was selected by Kara DioGuardi and Randy Jackson, drew little praise from the panel.

"If you were having dinner, that's the salad," Simon Cowell said of his "Alright" song choice.

Instead, the judges were wowed by Crystal Bowersox and Lee DeWyze, the other two remaining finalists. Bowersox, the 24-year-old musician from Toledo, Ohio, beguiled with her selection, Melissa Etheridge's "Come To My Window," as



Lee DeWyze, of Mount Prospect, Ill., one of three finalists from the reality show "American Idol," performs at Arlington Park racetrack in Arlington Heights, Ill., Friday, May 14, 2010.

AP

well as Paul McCartney's "Maybe I'm Amazed," a tune hand-picked by Ellen DeGeneres that inspired Bowersox to strut across the stage.

"You may be thanking Ellen for putting you in the final," declared Cowell.

Lee DeWyze delighted with Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Simple Man" and the Cowell choice of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," which concluded with the reserved 24-year-old paint sales clerk from Mount Prospect, Ill., surrounded by backup singers. After the soaring performance, Jackson deemed it "unbelievable" and DioGuardi called DeWyze "the heart of the show this season."

"I am very, very proud of you," said Cowell, who championed DeWyze early in the competition.

Cowell, who is departing

"Idol" after this season to launch a U.S. version of his British talent show "The X Factor," apparently isn't going without a fight. The tell-it-like-it-is British judge took issue with DioGuardi and Jackson for choosing the dull "Daughters" for James, suggesting that the duo should have written a bigger climax for the finalist.

"Yeah," DioGuardi retorted, "we'll just rewrite a Grammy Award winning song."

One more singer will be eliminated Wednesday with the final two crooners battling for viewer voters and the "Idol" title next week. The finale comes at a time of change for the aging franchise. Fox executives announced Monday that Tuesday night performance episodes would be 90 minutes, while the Wednesday results show would be chopped in half to 30 minutes.

Ochocinco is kicked off 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He gave his "Dancing With the Stars" partner diamond jewelry, and now Chad Ochocinco is kissing her goodbye.

The National Football League star and professional partner Cheryl Burke were ousted from the hit ABC show Tuesday, making them the 100th couple banished from the ballroom during the show's 10 seasons.

Ochocinco came into Tuesday's results show in last place, with 52 points out of 60 for his two dances. Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

Ochocinco and Burke were coy about their relationship throughout the season. Fans speculated the two might be more than friends when the football star bought the pro dancer a flashy diamond ring one week and a delicate diamond pendant the next.

They continued their coyness Tuesday. Burke characterized their relationship as a "special friendship that will always mean the world to me." Ochocinco said that what the couple built during dance practice will "continue for a lifetime."

He thanked Burke and the show's cast, calling his experience on the show "awesome."

"I enjoyed the journey," he said. "I met some wonderful people, and I got some great criticism that's only made me stronger, man."

"In my eyes, really, I've already won."



In this publicity image released by ABC, Chad Ochocinco, left, and his partner Cheryl Burke perform on the dance competition series "Dancing With the Stars," Monday, May 17, 2010 in New York.

Burke called her partner "the most amazing, soft, gentle man in the world."

Ochocinco's elimination came during a semifinal results show packed with performances. Sarah McLachlan sang a medley of her songs; teams from Rutgers and Utah Valley universities competed in the new college dance championship; former contestants Joey Fatone and Melissa Rycroft did

a tango in costumes picked by the public; and Miley Cyrus, in a leotard and thigh-high boots, performed her new single, "Can't Be Tamed."

The final slate is set: Singer Nicole Scherzinger, Olympic figure skater Evan Lysacek and sportscaster Erin Andrews will dance for the show's mirrorball trophy on Monday. A new "Dancing" champ will be crowned the next day.

Flood relief telethon raises \$1.8M for Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Donations from a national concert and telethon for Tennessee flood relief have reached \$1.8 million.

The event aired live Sunday night from Nashville's Ryman Auditorium on the GAC Network.

Performances were by Keith Urban, Brad Paisley, Sheryl

Crow, Lady Antebellum, Dierks Bentley, Rodney Atkins, Martina McBride, Kellie Pickler, CeCe Winans, Keb' Mo', Jaci Velasquez, Randy Montana and Will Hoge.

Money from the telethon is going to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. At least 2,000 homes were de-

stroyed or damaged in Nashville by the deadly flooding that struck Tennessee May 1-2. Damages have been estimated at \$1.5 billion and climbing.

People can continue to donate at <http://www.gactv.com/help> as well as by texting "GAC" to 501501 to make a \$10 donation through Sunday, May 23.

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\$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.

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For Friday, May 14th through Thursday, May 20th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



NOW SHOWING



Robin Hood

Friday	4:25	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:10
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:10	

Russel Crowe, Cate Blanchett
 Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Ridley Scott helms a script by Sleeper Cell scribes Ethan Reiff and Cyrus Nowrasteh as they tackle this revisionist take on the Robin Hood legend, which finds the noble Sheriff of Nottingham attempting to deal with the exploits of a less than virtuous Robin Hood while gradually being drawn into a heated love triangle involving the legendary thief and the beautiful Maid Marion.



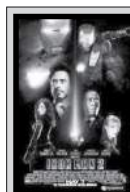
Letters to Juliet

Friday	4:05	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:05	7:20
Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:20	

Amanda Seyfried, Chris Egan
 Comedy, Romance • Rated PG

Synopsis

An American girl discovers a love letter that changes her life in this romantic comedy starring Amanda Seyfried and Vanessa Redgrave. The setting is Verona, Italy—the city where Romeo and Juliet first met. In Verona, there's a wall where the lovelorn leave notes, hoping that Juliet will answer their inquiries about love. Sophie (Seyfried) is part of a team of volunteers who respond to the letters. When Sophie answers a letter from 1957, the woman who wrote it (Redgrave) decides to seek out the one that got away, and romance starts to blossom all around.



Iron Man 2

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:20	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Robert Downey, Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
 Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

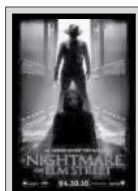
Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment present the highly anticipated sequel to the blockbuster film based on the legendary Marvel Super Hero "Iron Man," reuniting director Jon Favreau and Oscar® nominee Robert Downey Jr. In "Iron Man 2," the world is aware that billionaire inventor Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) is the armored Super Hero Iron Man. Under pressure from the government, the press and the public to share his technology with the military, Tony is unwilling to divulge the secrets behind the Iron Man armor because he fears the information will slip into the wrong hands.



Furry Vengeance

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:25	

Brendan Frazer, Brooke Shields
 Comedy, Children's/Family • Rated PG



A Nightmare on Elm Street

Friday	4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:30
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:30	

Jackie Earle Haley, Kyle Gallner
 Horror • Rated R



The Last Song

Friday	4:20	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:05	

Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
 Drama • Rated PG



Clash of the Titans

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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www.gohollywood.com

Travolta, Preston 'expecting' but didn't say what

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Travolta and Kelly Preston say in a statement on their websites that they “are expecting a new addition to our family.”

The couple did not specify what the addition is.

Various entertainment sites, including People.com and E! Online, interpreted the statement to mean that Preston is pregnant at 47.

Representatives for Preston and Travolta did not respond Tuesday to e-mail messages from The Associated Press.

Preston and Travolta have a 10-year-old daughter, Ella. The couple's son, Jett, died last year at age 16. The family's two dogs were killed Thursday in an accident at Maine's Bangor International Airport.



In this March 25, 2010 file photo, Kelly Preston, right, a cast member in “The Last Song,” arrives with her husband John Travolta at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles.

Vanessa Williams headed to ‘Desperate Housewives’

NEW YORK (AP)—Vanessa Williams is headed to Wisteria

In this April 25, 2010 file photo Vanessa Williams attends the opening night performance of the Broadway musical “Promises, Promises” in New York.

Lane next fall on “Desperate Housewives.”

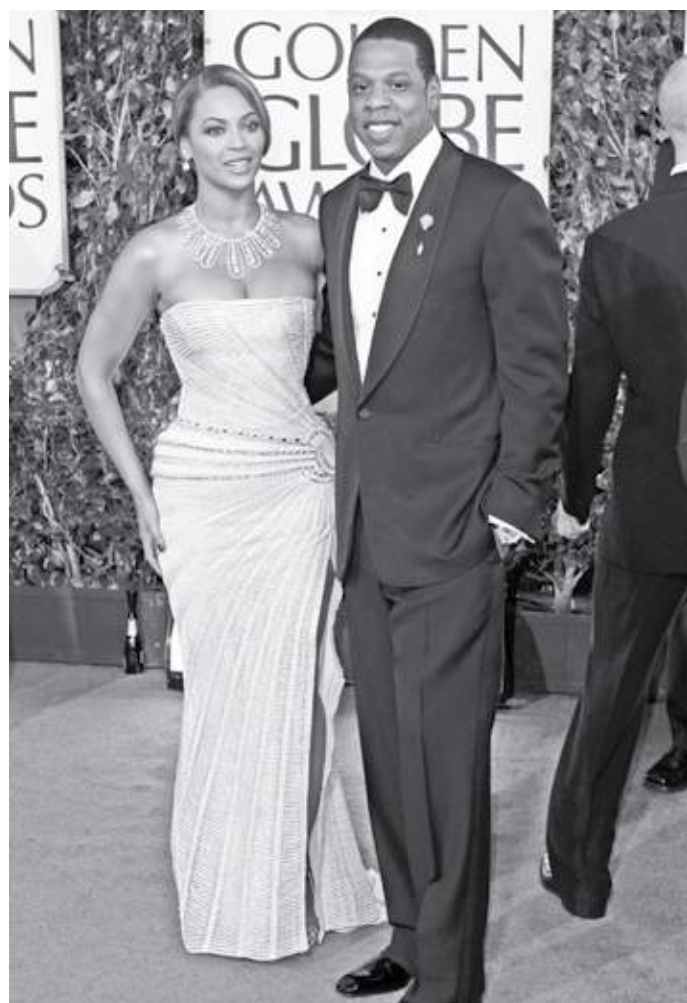
ABC said Tuesday she'll play a “wicked new housewife” as the series enters its seventh season.

Williams will hit the neighborhood fresh from performing in the Broadway musical “Sond-

heim on Sondheim,” which runs through June. She starred in the recently concluded ABC series “Ugly Betty.”

Ongoing stars of “Desperate Housewives” include Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman, Marcia Cross and Eva Longoria Parker.

Jay-Z, Beyonce to compete at 2010 BET awards



NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper Jay-Z and his wife, Beyonce, will compete in three categories at the 2010 BET Awards.

They're both nominated for video of the year, best collaboration and viewers' choice. Jay-Z received two nominations in the video of the year category, which includes newcomers B.o.B and Melanie Fiona.

Jay-Z is the top contender with five nominations; he's also up for best male hip-hop artist. Beyonce, Fiona and Alicia Keys, who follow with four nods each, are all up for best R&B female artist. R&B crooner Trey Songz also received four nominations.

Other multiple nominees include Rihanna, Maxwell, Drake and Fabolous.

Queen Latifah will host the awards show, which airs live on June 27 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

In this Jan. 11, 2009 file photo, Beyonce, left, is joined by husband Jay-Z, as she arrives at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Source: CBS canceling ‘Cold Case,’ 6 other series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS is moving aggressively to shake up its 2010-11 season, canceling “Cold Case,” “Ghost Whisperer” and five other series.

In this TV publicity image released by CBS, Jennifer Love Hewitt is shown in a scene from, “Ghost Whisperer.”

According to a person familiar with the changes, other canceled shows include “Numb3rs,” “The New Adventures of Old Christine,” “Gary Unmarried,” “Miami Medical” and “Accidentally on Purpose.” The person, who wasn't authorized to discuss the changes publicly, spoke on condition of anonymity.

The wholesale axings came

as a surprise, given the respectable ratings earned by some of the shows and CBS' standing as the most-watched network.

The cancellations will clear shelf space for newcomers, including William Shatner's first sitcom, a police drama with Tom Selleck and other shows to be officially announced Wednesday by CBS.

Friendships met halfway can survive separation

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I can empathize with “Deeply Hurt in Arizona” (March 16), who travels back to her hometown to see her large extended family and struggles to make time for her longtime friend “Judith,” who nonetheless feels slighted.

My husband and I grew up in the Northeast but now live out of state. We have flown hundreds of miles with our children to visit our families back there. Once we arrived, it seemed we were expected to continue traveling from town to town to do all the visiting. It became very stressful.

These people made little effort to visit us in our state or even come to our “base” while we were in their area. While “Hurt” visits her elderly parents, Judith appears to be sitting around waiting for her and making little effort. Why doesn't Judith go to the parents' home? Or, better yet, have a girls' weekend in Arizona or somewhere in between?

We have gotten past our irritation with family and friends and do two things: 1. We tell people in advance when we're coming so they can make plans. Groups—especially friends—can double up, and see us and see each other. 2. We use our time the way we want and not the way we feel we are obligated to.

“Hurt” should urge Judith to try to come to her. The road goes both ways.

WORKED IT OUT IN ALPHARETTA, GA.

DEAR WORKED IT OUT: Thank you for writing. The scenario in “Hurt's” letter hit a nerve with a number of readers. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When my kids visit from out of state, I have an open house so the family can come to one place and spend time with them. This gives my kids more time to visit with me and any special friends they may want to see. It also lessens the guilt of not being able to see everyone. This has worked well for us, and now the family expects me to do it every time the kids come back.

DIANA IN OHIO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I agree that Judith is selfish and immature. I have friends all over the U.S., and when they come to visit, I understand that most of their time will be spent with family.

Judith needs to grow up and realize that not everything revolves around her. Instead of complaining about the lack of time “Hurt” has for her, Judith should make the most of the time she does get to spend.

SHELLIE IN INDIANA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There may be a crisis in Judith's life that she is displacing onto “Hurt.” When the emotions around that crisis calm, she will need her old friend. Is there anyone in town who could find out what is going on?

I knew a woman who cut everyone out of her life in a rage after the betrayal of an assault by a loved one. Another person did the same thing after a cancer diagnosis. Once the shock faded and they began to deal with their issues, they confided in their old friends about what was really happening and were able to reconnect.

SUSAN IN CENTERVILLE, OHIO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our family moved two hours away to make a better life for our kids. With a newborn in tow, we spent the entire first summer traveling home to visit family and friends.

My best friend came to see us once in the first year after our move. Recently she told me that because I moved away, we no longer have anything in common and that “maybe we would cross paths again—someday.”

It hit me like a ton of bricks, but I have chosen to move on. If our paths were meant to cross again, they would not have split in the first place.

ANGELA IN WASHINGTON STATE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Was the only time Judith heard from “Hurt” when she had a few precious moments for Judith? If one person has to do all the communicating, perhaps it isn't a true friendship—and that is what Judith was trying to say.

The art of communication and caring is dying. Hey, folks: Friendship is a two-way street.

BEEN THERE, TOO, IN PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear Abby



Lil Jon not part of the iPad craze

NEW YORK (AP)—Lil Jon says he's not interested in keeping up with the trends in technology—and that includes the iPad.

In a recent interview, the rapper and producer said: “I already have a big ... computer”. He called the iPad “just the latest toy.”



The 38-year-old is old school when it comes to his tech devices—he still carries the once-hot Sidekick, which he says “types really fast.”

He declared: “I ain't going to buy no iPhone.” He also said the buttons on the BlackBerry are too small—and he has big thumbs.

Jon's upcoming CD, “Crunk Rock,” is slated for release June 8.



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



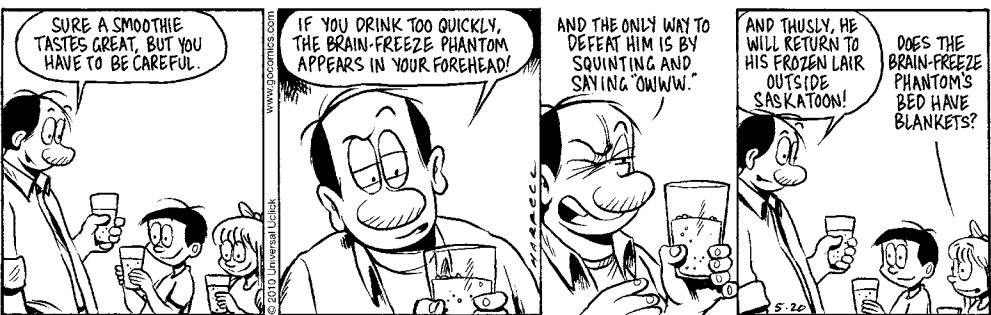
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dilbert's work-place

5 "Eee-www!"

8 1960s Secretary of State Dean

12 Verve

13 Born

14 Initial chip

15 Multi-national money

16 Atlantic st.

17 June 6, 1944

18 Nebraska river

20 Needle-nose tool

22 Rocky peak

23 Rowing need

24 "Hi, sailor"

27 Teemed

32 Cleric's title (Abbr.)

33 Head of st.

34 "— the ramparts ..."

35 Opening night

38 In pre-swan mode

39 Snitch

40 Spinning speed (Abbr.)

42 24-Down, e.g.

45 Zero

49 Manhattan-die

50 Greek vowel

52 "The Music Man" setting

53 Shrek is one

54 In medias

55 Coral structure

56 Progeny

57 Bumped into

58 Formerly, formerly

DOWN

1 Profound

2 Hebrew month

3 Detective novelist

4 Paretsky

5 Too young

6 "Golly!"

7 Aid

8 Angular measure

9 Likely loser

10 Celebrity

11 Organ array

19 — and fro

21 "Skip to My —"

24 Dadaist Jean

25 That girl

26 Medley that starts a musical

28 Bklyn., e.g.

29 Cloudy

30 Conger, for one

31 Towel off

36 Sent, in a way

37 "— Impos-sible"

38 Diamond decider

41 3.1416

42 Andy's pal

43 Anger

44 Four years in the White House

46 Gardener, at times

47 Rams fans?

48 Sawyer's carrier

51 Ball-bearing item

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 5-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tony Goldwyn, 50; Bronson Pinchot, 51; Cher, 64; Joe Cocker, 66

Happy Birthday: You have to decide what's worth it and what's not. Letting someone coerce you into something that doesn't interest you is a waste of time and will build tension between you. A mature attitude will win out this year. Follow your dreams and your heart and encourage those around you to do the same. Your uplifting attitude will be an encouragement to everyone. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 24, 27, 40, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set your goals high and don't stop until you reach them. Your drive and determination will attract and impress people. Once you get things going, you will get lots of response as well as help. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Play the game the best you know how but don't take personally what others do or say. Challenges can be a good outlet for you to blow off steam. Argue less and you'll prosper more. Romance is in the stars. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get chores out of the way and you will feel much better. Participating in a cause you believe in is fine, but don't be too quick to part with your hard-earned cash. Donate time not money. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Before you get all caught up in what everyone else is doing and saying, ask yourself what you want. Don't get led down a path that

doesn't suit you because you are afraid to go it alone. Embrace change. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Being anxious will lead to mistakes. Settle down and relax before you take on a challenge that can change your future. Now is not the time to gamble or to be too generous with your cash. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let your emotions get the better of you or it may cost you financially. You can't pay for others' mistakes. Meddling will be your downfall and will stand in the way of important opportunities that are heading your way. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can offer your services to a worthy cause but don't let it cost you financially. You should be putting your money into your own pursuits. A love relationship will cause you to question your future. Consider the legal aspects. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Know what you want before you enter negotiations. You can get the benefits you require if you ask. A relationship you are in will be more prosperous than you anticipated. Sharing and caring will lead to satisfaction and happiness. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick to the truth. If you are honest, you can avoid complaints and put your ideas and plans into motion. Talks will lead to a deal that can change your life. An emotional relationship may be in jeopardy. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A deal will be presented that you cannot turn down. Partnerships will pay off

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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but you must get everything in writing. You can prosper from an investment that has to do with property. Love is evident if you make plans for two. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A partnership will enable you to get much further ahead. Make a list of what you can offer and what you expect in return. Be aggressive and productive and you'll avoid a heated discussion over an emotional matter. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may feel pretty happy with your own performance but never underestimate what the competition might do to undermine you. Join forces with someone you know can add depth to whatever you do. A solid partnership will bring you strength and courage. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are passionate and possessive. You strive for perfection and work hard to achieve your goals. You are determined and aggressive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISING Solution: 7 letters

S R E N N I D T N E M E V O M
B E N E F I T S E N I L N O A
E P I T C H S T R O P E R I R
S V S T E T A R E N E G F N K
L R E P R E S E N T A T I V E
A S E N T A G A I N L N N I T
U T E E T N P R I I F U A T I
D B E X T P E Z A L P S N A N
I U D N A N A M U N E R C T G
V S A O R T U E N V T E I I R
I I R E I E N L I R E T A O O
D N T O G C T R O S E O L N U
N E N R E R D N A V E V A S P
I S N O I T U B I R T N O C S
E S U A C A N V A S S I N G T

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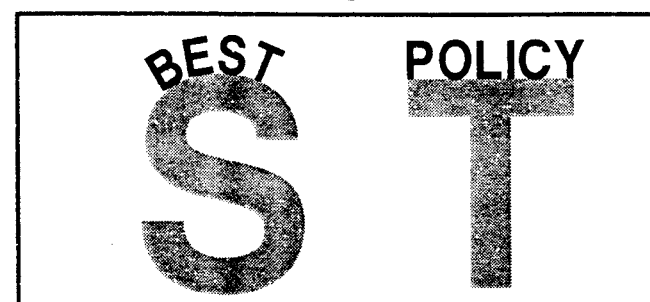
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Celtics top Magic, take 2-0 lead in East finals



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Too slow? Too old?

Try two wins from the NBA finals.

Indeed, the Boston Celtics look like they saved their best this season for when it mattered most.

"I know," Boston's Paul Pierce said. "It's starting to look that way."

Pierce scored 28 points, Rajon Rondo had 25 and the revived Celtics again avoided a late collapse to take a commanding lead in the Eastern Conference finals with a 95-92 victory over the Orlando Magic in Game 2 on Tuesday night.

Boston bullied and bruised its way to a 2-0 series lead on the road against a Magic team that had won 14 straight until this series.

After being hampered by injuries for much of the season, often showing their age, the Celtics are now just two wins away from their second finals appearance in three seasons.

"I think we are becoming the team that started the season," Rivers said. "The team that started the season was pretty good."

Maybe even good enough to take down the defending conference champion Magic.

Dwight Howard had 30 points, and Vince Carter and J.J. Redick scored 16 apiece for the Magic, who overcame an 11-point deficit to take a brief lead in the fourth quarter. But they couldn't hold it.

Jameer Nelson's desperation 3-point attempt airballed at the buzzer, sending fans to the exits in silence.

"I won't stop believing," Howard said. "And I won't let my teammates stop believing."

Game 3 is Saturday night in Boston.

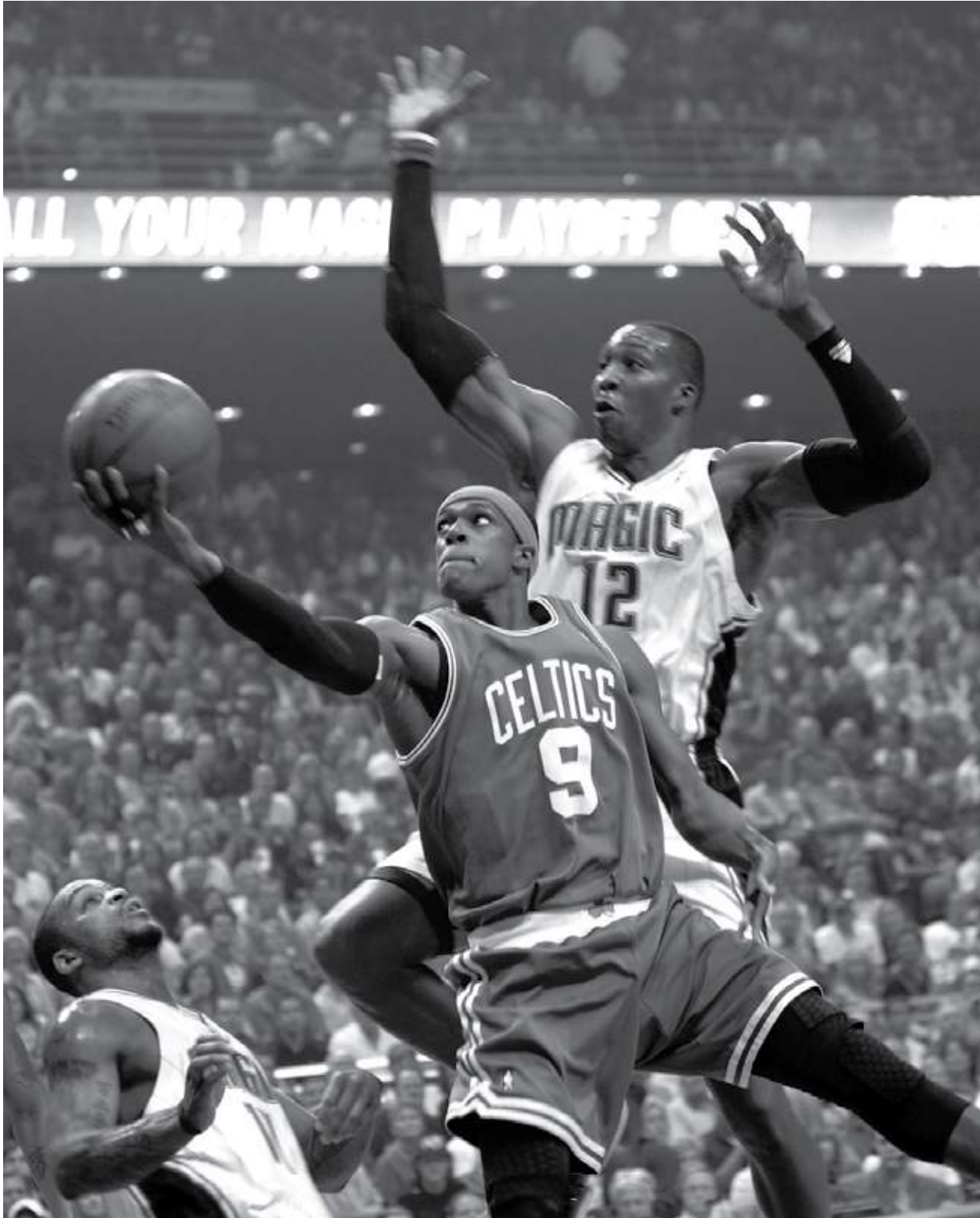
"Our fans won't let us relax," Pierce said. "We're going to try and close it out in four games."

The Celtics buckled down just enough to hold in this one.

Ahead 11 points early in the fourth quarter, that almost wasn't enough. The Magic, just as they did in Game 1, found their rhythm late.

They went on a 13-4 run to trim Boston's lead to 85-83 with about six minutes left. Carter's jumper with 4:05 remaining gave Orlando a 90-89 lead with 3:35 remaining, and then the Celtics summoned their championship form again.

Kevin Garnett and Rondo made



Boston Celtics guard Rajon Rondo (9) drives in for a shot as Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) comes in from behind for the block during the first half in Game 2 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

consecutive jumpers, and after Nelson made a layup, Pierce answered with two free throws that put Boston ahead by three.

Carter missed two free throws with 31.9 seconds left that cost Orlando dearly.

It must have felt all too familiar to Magic fans who watched Howard's damaging misses at the stripe in Game 4 of the NBA finals last year and Nick Anderson's four bricks in Game 1 of the 1995 finals.

Only another footnote for Boston's

remarkable history.

Two years removed from their 17th NBA championship, the Celtics, once thought too old to contend for another title, have found their footing again. After ousting LeBron James and the

Cleveland Cavaliers, the team with the league's best record, Boston is showing no signs of stopping.

"Just think our mindset was to be ready for the type of intensity they would bring after losing at home," Pierce said. "We know the Magic are a talented team and we won't take these two wins for granted."

Before the final heave, Redick also made a crucial mistake by dribbling to half court before calling timeout. That wasted seconds and forced the Magic to take the ball out from beyond half court.

The result was a shot that didn't reach the rim.

"It would have made a big difference," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We said in the thing to call a timeout. We didn't make the right play there at the end."

Redick took the blame.

"I made a mistake," he said. "I didn't hear the whistle initially. When I didn't hear it initially, I just kind of went, then I realized we should have called a timeout. So that was my fault."

Boston again started fast.

The Celtics, who took a 20-point lead in Game 1, went ahead by 11 in the first quarter. It wasn't until backup center Marcin Gortat and Howard—a rare combination this season—teamed together that Orlando showed any fight.

With the Magic feeling intense post-season pressure for the first time this year, Orlando went on a 16-2 run behind the two centers.

All the pushing and pulling would finally spill over.

Pierce was knocked in the head hard by Howard on a layup attempt in the second quarter, a punishing display of anger that the Magic center rarely shows. Pierce got up after a minute, clearly upset, his headband twisted to the side. Howard was called for a flagrant foul.

The Celtics would go ahead by five after Howard picked up his third foul moments later. Before they could deliver another big blow, Matt Barnes hit a 3-pointer as the shot-clock buzzer sounded in the final seconds for Orlando to trim Boston's lead to 53-51 at the half.

The Celtics are feeling good, but not overconfident.

"The feeling of the team right now is just focus," Pierce said. "Only thing we did was win two games."

Wizards win NBA's draft lottery, earn No. 1 pick

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP)—With his championship ring on her hand and her late husband's dreams of another on her mind, Irene Pollin stood in shock as the Washington Wizards won the draft lottery.

Towering over her to the side, Mikhail Prokhorov watched the New Jersey Nets lose yet again.

The Wizards won the draft lottery Tuesday night, moving up from the No. 5 spot to earn the top pick in next month's draft, when it will likely choose between Kentucky freshman John Wall and national player of the year Evan Turner of Ohio State.

Washington was represented by Irene Pollin, who wore the 1978 Bullets championship

ring of her late husband, long-time owner Abe Pollin. When the Wizards pulled off the surprising win, her jaw dropped and appeared to mouth 'Oh my God!!' with wide eyes.

Abe Pollin died at age 85 in November.

"This is very, very special. I have been in this my entire adult life and to be here, representing my husband, this is very special to me tonight," Irene Pollin said. "I think it's the culmination of my husband's dream because he wanted another ring and maybe this will get us another ring."

The Philadelphia 76ers, another disappointment this season, moved up from the sixth spot to grab the No. 2 pick. The Nets continued the run of failure

by teams with the best chance of winning, falling to the third.

Prokhorov, the 6-foot-6 Russian billionaire who was approved as Nets owner last week and had a front row seat for the loss, shrugged off the disappointment.

"Sometimes luck makes all the difference, but it never comes down to one player," Prokhorov said. "I'm sure we're going to get a great player. For our team, the only way is up."

The lottery victory—despite only a 10.3 percent chance—is just about the only thing that has gone right in a disastrous year for the Wizards, marred by the suspension of All-Star Gilbert Arenas for bringing

guns into the Verizon Center locker room. They finished 26-56 after being widely forecast to finish in the middle of the Eastern Conference.

Irene Pollin hopes the lottery win will help fans forget a turbulent season, when the Wizards also traded former All-Stars Caron Butler and Antawn Jamison to cut salary after things fell apart.

"Fans are fickle. But I think this is a wonderful thing for our fans who have really stuck by us," Pollin said. "They really have been through a very, very tough year. Actually when I got up and spoke to them, I was thanking them for sticking by us and being so supportive even though we had all the prob-

lems."

Now they hope the No. 1 pick can help spark a quick turnaround under Washington Capitals owner Ted Leonsis, who is close to completing a deal to buy the franchise from the Pollin family. Leonsis met with some NBA owners earlier Tuesday, and the sale is expected to be completed early in June.

"We have a lot of work to do with the franchise," Leonsis said. "The players, the culture, the expectations, the discipline around the team, but I do think it is a breath of fresh air and does revive the franchise and gives us a shot to be an exciting team with a lot of expectations. I know how hard it is to rebuild a team. I am going to be patient

but I have a strong belief that our management team and ownership team is very focused."

The Nets had a 25 percent chance of winning after going 12-70. Instead, the team with the worst record still hasn't won since 2004, when the Orlando Magic selected Dwight Howard.

Asked before the lottery about potentially changing the system to keep teams from losing on purpose to improve their probability of winning, commissioner David Stern said he thinks, "the results of the lottery, if anything, are causing teams with the worst record to feel as though a paucity of wins is not being adequately recognized and compensated."

So will Arenas play with the No. 1 pick or be replaced by him?

Four homers lead Toronto Blue Jays over Twins

TORONTO (AP)—Edwin Encarnacion returned from injury to hit one of Toronto's four home runs as the Blue Jays romped to an 11-2 win over the Minnesota Twins in the American League on Tuesday.



Encarnacion had been out for a month with a shoulder injury. Back in the lineup, he started the homer barrage with a two-run shot in the second.

Vernon Wells, Aaron Hill and Lyle Overbay also went long for Toronto, which leads the majors with 65 home runs this season.

Blue Jays starter Shaun Marcum (3-1) won his third straight decision, allowing one run in seven innings.

Minnesota starter Carl Pavano (4-4) was pounded for six runs in four innings. He has a 6.21 ERA in 10 career games against Toronto.

Red Sox 7, Yankees 6

In New York, Jeremy Hermida hit a tie-breaking, two-run double in the ninth inning and Boston took advantage of two late errors to rally from five runs down and beat New York.

New York played the game under protest after Boston pitcher Josh Beckett left with supposed back tightness following Robinson Cano's two-run double in the fifth which made it 5-0 to the Yankees. The Yankees said Beckett showed no sign of injury and his replacement shouldn't have been given extended time to warm up.

An error by New York right fielder Marcus Thames helped the Red Sox win. Hermida, a defensive replacement, doubled off Yankees closer Mariano Rivera (0-1) to snap a 5-5 tie.

Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon got his 10th season save. Boston's Daniel Bard (1-1) got one out for the win.

Rays 6, Indians 2

In St. Petersburg, Evan Longoria drove in three runs to help Tampa Bay down Cleveland.

Longoria, who has 21 RBIs in his past 19 games, had a run-scoring double off David Huff (1-6) in the third and a two-run triple in a four-run sixth.

The Rays improved baseball's top record to 28-11 heading into a two-game series at the New York Yankees.

Tampa Bay starter David Price (6-1) won his fourth straight decision and became the AL's first six-game winner this year. He held the Indians to an unearned run over six innings.

Cleveland shortstop Jason Donald went 2 for 3 with a walk and also scored a run in his major league debut.

Rangers 8, Angels 7

In Arlington, Michael Young had three hits and three RBIs, including a tiebreaking single that sent AL West-leading Texas over Los Angeles.



Toronto Blue Jays centre fielder Vernon Wells, left, celebrates his solo home run with shortstop Alex Gonzalez, right, against the Minnesota Twins during third inning AL action in Toronto on Tuesday, May 18, 2010. AP

Elvis Andrus doubled in the sixth inning off Trevor Bell (1-1) for his third hit and scored on Young's bloop to right.

Darren O'Day (1-1), the second of five Rangers relievers, struck out two in a scoreless inning. Neftali Feliz worked a perfect ninth with two strikeouts for his 11th save.

Young, Ian Kinsler and Vladimir Guerrero homered for the Rangers. Torii Hunter and Juan Rivera each hit a two-run shot in the Angels' five-run fourth.

White Sox 6, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Juan Pierre's two-run double and run-saving catch in the fourth inning helped Chicago beat Detroit.

White Sox starter Freddy Garcia (3-2) gave up two runs over six innings, going five starts without a loss for the first time since the end of the 2006 season.

Tigers starter Rick Porcello (3-4) allowed four runs in seven innings.

Athletics 6, Mariners 5, 10 innings

In Oakland, Kurt Suzuki's RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted Oakland over Seattle.

Cliff Pennington drew a one-out walk from Seattle reliever Brandon League (3-4), advanced to second on a fly out and took third on a wild pitch. Suzuki then hit a pitch up the middle, just past shortstop.

Oakland's Ryan Sweeney matched his career high with four hits, Rajai Davis had three hits, including two infield singles, and Jack Cust drove in his first two runs since being called up from the minors.

A's reliever Craig Breslow (1-1) pitched one scoreless inning for the win.

Orioles 4, Royals 3, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Nick Markakis singled in the winning run in the 10th inning, giving Baltimore a comeback win over Kansas City.

Luke Scott hit two solo home runs and Corey Patterson also connected for the Orioles, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Baltimore trailed 3-0 in the fifth inning and 3-2 in the eighth.

Julio Lugo got Baltimore started in the 10th with a one-out single off Bryan Bullington (0-1). Patterson walked, and an error by first baseman Billy Butler loaded the bases for Markakis, who hit a liner well over the head of the center fielder.

Alfredo Simon (1-1) pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings for the Orioles to take the win.

Marlins 8, Diamondbacks 0

In Miami, Brian Barden drove in two runs in place of benched star Hanley Ramirez to help the Florida Marlins beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Ramirez, a two-time All-Star shortstop and the reigning National

League batting champion, sat out a day after being pulled by manager Fredi Gonzalez for failing to hustle. Ramirez, who said he wasn't loafing, sniped at his manager and teammates in pre-game remarks.

Minus their highest-paid player, the Marlins did fine for a day. Johnson (4-1) pitched two-hit ball for seven innings, Cameron Maybin and Dan Uggla had back-to-back home runs and Barden neatly filled in.

Josh Johnson improved to 3-1 with a 1.00 ERA lifetime against Arizona. He struck out nine and walked two.

Reds 5, Brewers 4

At Cincinnati, Scott Rolen hit a tying, two-run homer in the ninth inning off fading closer Trevor Hoffman and Joey Votto delivered an RBI single off the wall to rally Cincinnati over Milwaukee.

The first-place Reds pulled off their 10th win in their final at-bat, this one against a closer who has lost his touch. Milwaukee lost its eighth in a row, its worst slump since 2006.

Hoffman (1-3) came on with a 4-2 lead and failed to retire any of the five batters he faced, walking off the field with a blank expression after Votto's single.

Hoffman has converted only five of 10 save chances. He is the career saves leader with 596. He has given up 19 earned runs and 21 hits in only 13 innings this year.

Pirates 2, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Zach Duke outdueled Roy Halladay with a strong six innings as the Pittsburgh bullpen held on for a win over Philadelphia.

A night after the Pirates gave up 12 runs to the National League's most potent offense, Duke (3-4) limited Philadelphia to one run in six innings. Evan Meek, Joel Hanrahan and Octavio Dotel retired nine of the final 10 batters.

With a perfect ninth inning, Dotel recorded his eighth save in 10 chances, and snapped the Phillies' four-game winning streak.

Halladay (6-2), who leads the major leagues in innings pitched, gave up nine hits in his fourth complete game of the season. He walked one and struck out six.

Braves 3, Mets 2

At Atlanta, pinch-runner Brent Clevlen trotted home with the winning run on a throwing error by third baseman David Wright in the ninth inning as Atlanta beat the New York Mets.

Brian McCann opened the bottom of the ninth with a single to right off Pedro Feliciano (1-2), the Braves' first baserunner since the third inning. New York pitchers had retired 16 in a row until McCann reached.

After failing to bunt Clevlen to second, Yunel Escobar wound up taking a walk from Jenrry Mejia. Cabrera also failed in two attempts to get down a sacrifice bunt, then hit a high chopper toward Wright. He threw on the run, but the ball sailed into Cabrera and got by first baseman Ike Davis.

Cardinals 3, Nationals 2

At St. Louis, Ryan Ludwick homered to snap an eighth-inning tie and reward a resourceful performance by Chris Carpenter in St. Louis' victory over Washington.

Ludwick hit his sixth homer on a 1-1 delivery from Tyler Clippard (7-3), one pitch after the reliever picked off pinch-runner Brendan Ryan at first. Ryan Franklin worked the ninth for his ninth save in 10 chances.

Carpenter (5-1) had only one perfect inning and allowed his seventh homer in nine starts, matching the total he yielded last season.

Cubs 6, Rockies 2

At Chicago, Carlos Silva pitched six strong innings to remain unbeaten as Chicago overcame Todd Helton's first home run of the season to beat Colorado.

Tyler Colvin had three hits and fellow rookie Starlin Castro drove in two runs for the Cubs, who have a three-game winning streak. With the two-game sweep of the Rockies, Chicago won a series for only the fourth time this year.



PITTSBURGH (AP)—These might be the most-scrutinized May practices in Pittsburgh Steelers history.

The team resumed its voluntary offseason workouts on Tuesday without suspended quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. He remains banned from attending, and there is no indication when the NFL will allow him to participate.

"I'm waiting for word from New York like everyone else," coach Mike Tomlin said. "I'm not going to speculate until I get that word."

For now, Roethlisberger can only join his

Steelers search for temporary QB

teammates on the golf course and played a charity event with them on Monday.

The Steelers aren't certain if the league will allow Roethlisberger to attend any of the remaining 11 spring practices, which run each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through June 10.

On April 21, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell suspended the two-time Super Bowl winner for the first six games of the season and also ordered him to undergo a behavioral evaluation

following a March incident in which a 20-year-old college student accused him of sexual assault in Milledgeville, Ga. The case will not be prosecuted.

In Roethlisberger's absence, Byron Leftwich took most of the snaps with the starters, just as he has since being reacquired by Pittsburgh in a trade with Tampa Bay last month. Leftwich was the backup when the Steelers won the Super Bowl 15 months ago.

There's no sign from Tomlin that Charlie Batch or Dennis Dixon will get similar work with the regulars. Tomlin promises only that there will be a clearly defined depth chart when training camp begins.

"I don't believe it's an effective approach to go into camp with a pure, open quarterback competition, if you will, a three-headed quarterback battle," Tomlin said. "We'll go in with a pecking order, and the opportunity to show what you're capable of will be based on that pecking order. All three guys will be given an opportunity but not an equal opportunity."

Promoters cautious on 2nd Pacquiao-Mayweather deal

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER



When the promoters for Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. take a second crack at putting their fighters together, they're hoping a calm, quiet approach will lead to the fireworks everybody craves.

Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum said Wednesday he'll start talking to Mayweather's camp "sooner rather than later" about matching the world's top two welterweights for a Nov. 13 bout in either Las Vegas or Texas.

"That's the fight people want to see, and that's the fight I'm going to do my darnedest to make happen," Arum said. "My first goal is to make that fight happen, but we're not going to negotiate this thing in the press, because if we do, given the egos (involved), it's never going to happen."

Arum returned Tuesday from the Philippines, where he proudly attended Pacquiao's apparent victory in a congressional election. The former Justice Department lawyer in the Kennedy administration described the trip as a landmark event in his life, and predicted Pacquiao eventually will be his nation's president.

Yet even during the final days of Pacquiao's campaign, Arum only heard one question from hundreds of Filipino fans: When will Manny fight Money?

"People want to see it, there's no question about it," Arum said. "I have no idea whether it's going to happen or not."

Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer, who represents Mayweather, also refuses to predict success after the camps' first negotiations fell apart over drug testing disagreements. Schaefer said no formal talks are scheduled, and Mayweather is busy spending time with his family and watching the NBA playoffs.

Schaefer, in New York pro-

moting Amir Khan's bout with Paulie Malignaggi this weekend, echoed Arum's desire for a calm, private negotiation out of the media spotlight.

"Is it the fight everyone would like to see? Yeah, it is," Schaefer said. "But everyone would like to see as well LeBron James against Kobe Bryant in the NBA finals, or Federer against Nadal in the Wimbledon final, or now that World Cup soccer is coming up, the Brazilians against the Italians in the World Cup soccer final."

"Does it always happen? No, it doesn't. But I don't think the success of one event is really the beginning or the end of a sport."

Pacquiao's next fight definitely will be in early November, with Arum hoping to match Pacquiao against former welterweight champion Antonio Margarito if talks with Mayweather fall through. Margarito hasn't been licensed to fight in the U.S. after getting caught with a plaster-like substance in his gloves in Los Angeles in January 2009, but Arum believes he could get a license in Texas.

As for the budding congressman, who will be sworn in June 30, Arum said Pacquiao still can train for a fight while handling his new duties. Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, echoed that belief.

"He's a multitasker," Roach said. "He's been doing this such a long time, making movies, he's a singer. He likes keeping busy. Congressmen don't do much anyway."

Arum also said Pacquiao led him to believe he wants to fight three more times before retiring.

But Arum didn't indicate whether Pacquiao would be willing to budge on his objections to the stringent drug testing demanded by Mayweather, including blood tests in the weeks leading up to the fight. Mayweather and Sugar Shane Mosley went through the same tests before Mayweather's one-sided victory May 1.

FINANCIAL

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those sending a big delegation had only made initial payment and have to come up with the needed money on or before June 30. Baseball, canoe, basketball, athletics, swimming, and spearfishing only made deposits.

June 30 is the deadline for

registration of delegates to the quadrennial meet, which will run from Aug. 1 to 10.

"If sports associations can't come up with the money, they will not go, so we are appealing to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to assist our athletes. Any contribution will help ease the burden of our athletes," White said.

With its tight budget, the

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation obviously could not provide funds that will cover all the expenses so Tebuteb said they will meet again later this week to come up with a "reasonable amount of assistance" before presenting the request for financial aid in an official meeting next week.

"We are committed to help our athletes, who are bringing

pride to the CNMI by competing and winning in off-island events, such as the Micronesian Games," said Tebuteb, who are joined in the meeting by Reps. Antonio Sablan, Francisco Dela Cruz, Ray Yumul, Edmund Villagomez, Eliceo Cabrera, and Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

"We will be extremely grateful for whatever help the Saipan

and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation can extend to the CNMI delegation. The funding we could get, big or small, will be split equally to all delegates. The athletes/sports associations will cover whatever is left on the total cost," White said.

White, who was accompanied by NMASA treasurer Ed Salas in the informat meeting yesterday at the House Cham-

ber, added the association will be accountable for the funds it will get from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

"Rest assured that once the Games are done and the receipts are made available, NMASA will submit a financial report to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation," the NMASA head said.

MEXICO

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Mexico still had the advantage in goals scored with 25 against Uruguay's 21.

Against France, the Mexicans lost to the Frenchmen five times, never tasting a win, and forcing only one draw. France also made more goals, 15-4. Mexico met South Africa only three times in the past with the

former enjoying a 2-1 edge besides tallying more goals, 9-4.

Seize the moment

Honduras made it to the World Cup through the help of the U.S. The Americans held Costa Rica

to a 2-2 draw in the last game in the qualifier, forcing the latter to a 5-4-1 win-draw-loss record, the same mark Honduras had. However, Honduras won in the tie-break on goal differential, 2-0.

The draw gave Honduras the

ticket to South Africa and the Los Catrachos bowed not to waste the opportunity, which came to them only for the second time.

Honduras' other World Cup appearance was in 1982 in Spain and it took them 28 years to be back on center stage again.

"Nobody could believe it. Our game ended and we were all dejected, then we saw the row the fans were making and we realized that the USA had equalized against Costa Rica. We're so happy to be going to South Africa and we're not go-

ing to let down all those people who believed in us." Honduras striker Carlos Pavon was quoted as saying in the FIFA World Cup website.

Pavon, who scored seven goals in nine games in the qualifier, will be the man to watch for Honduras. Joining him on the team are a bunch of European teams mainstays David Suazo, Wilson Palacios, Julio Leon, and Amado Guevara

Honduras is drawn in Group H with World No. 1 Spain, Chile, and Switzerland.

FASHIONABLY

From Page 28

ball, Nick Cruz busted a two-RBI single that brought home John Pangelinan and Josh Jones who reached off a bean ball and a walk.

Uncharacteristically, the Fielders changed pitchers twice in the first inning of play.

After a pitch hit second batter, Jonathon Celis was called to the mound in relief for Fielders starter Mark Aldan.

Then, three batters later, Juan Maratita was given the ball in relief for Celis.

After closing the last two outs of the first, Maratita singled home Ton Tenorio, in the bottom half, who reached off a bean ball and stole second.

Meanwhile, the Falcons kept on the attack and added two more runs in the top of the second.

Pangelinan connected with a two-RBI single that brought home J.T. Taitano and Thomas

Camacho who reached off an error and a base hit.

Then after the Fielders left a runner stranded at third base in the bottom half, the Falcons added another run in the top of the third from a Joe Aldan RBI single that brought in Dodet Feliciano who led off and reached off an error.

Then in the bottom half, the Fielders fought back and produced two runs.

Jonathon Celis hit a one out single and scored off an error. An out later, Ionis Rasa knocked in Maratita before getting gunned down at second.

In the top of the fourth, the Falcons added a run from Camacho, who drew a lead off walk and scored off an error.

The score remained at 7-3 Falcons until the sixth inning.

The timely Fielders bit down and forced the Falcons to go 1-2-3 in the top half and then tied the game at 7-7 with one inning left of regulation.

A two-RBI double by Zack

Tudela brought around Rasa and Eldred Sanchez who reached off an error and base hit.

Later, Tom Agulto and Wensner Namelo reached base off a fielder's choice and a Texas leaguer to shallow left field.

After Tenorio grounded out to move them over, Jonathon Celis came to the plate with two outs and runners at second and third.

Celis grounded to third and reached off a killer bad throw that allowed Agulto and Namelo to come home and tie up the game.

Then in the top of the seventh, the Falcons led off with a hit, but a fielder's choice came next and nailed their lead runner.

Chris Myers hit a one out single to keep the inning alive, but the next batter dinked into a 6-4-3 double play that abruptly spoiled Falcon rally.

Then in the bottom of the seventh, while their opposition's offense showed up early only to run into a wall, the Fielder's bats conveniently showed up

for them in the end, right when they really needed it.

Second batter Rasa reached off a fielder's choice and was moved into scoring position off a base hit from Sanchez.

Then Zack Tudela brought in Rasa with a walk-off RBI single for the win.

Winning pitcher Juan Maratita held it down after his team's early struggles in the first inning. He allowed an earned run in six and 2/3 innings with six strikeouts, six hits, and a walk. He also batted 1-for-3 with an RBI, a run, and a base on balls. Zack Tudela batted 4-for-4 with three RBIs and Ionis Rasa batted 1-for-4 with an RBI and two runs.

Falcons pitcher Chris Myers turned in a solid performance allowing four earned runs in six and 1/3 innings with three strikeouts, eight hits, two walks, and a hit by pitch in the loss. His pitching had nothing to do with three of the four runs scored by the Fielders late in the sixth inning.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
Milwaukee	15	24	.385	8
Houston	13	26	.333	10
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	28	11	.718	—
New York	25	14	.641	3
Toronto	24	17	.585	5
Boston	20	20	.500	8 1/2
Baltimore	13	27	.325	15 1/2
Central Division				
Minnesota	24	15	.615	—
Detroit	22	17	.564	2
Chicago	16	22	.421	7 1/2
Cleveland	15	22	.405	8
Kansas City	15	25	.375	9 1/2
West Division				
Texas	22	18	.550	—
Oakland	20	20	.500	2
Los Angeles	18	23	.439	4 1/2
Seattle	14	25	.359	7 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	24	14	.632	—
Florida	21	19	.525	4
Washington	20	20	.500	5
Atlanta	19	20	.487	5 1/2
New York	19	21	.475	6
Central Division				
Cincinnati	23	16	.590	—
St. Louis	23	17	.575	1/2
Chicago	18	22	.450	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	17	22	.436	6
Milwaukee	15	24	.385	8
Houston	13	26	.333	10
West Division				
San Diego	23	16	.590	—
San Francisco	22	16	.579	1/2
Los Angeles	22	17	.564	1
Colorado	19	20	.487	4
Arizona	16	24	.400	7 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Cincinnati 5, Milwaukee 4				
Florida 8, Arizona 0				
Pittsburgh 2, Philadelphia 1				
Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 2				
Chicago Cubs 6, Colorado 2				
St. Louis 3, Washington 2				
San Francisco 7, San Diego 6, 12 innings				
L.A. Dodgers 7, Houston 3				
Toronto 11, Minnesota 2				
Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 2				
Tampa Bay 6, Cleveland 2				
Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 6				
Baltimore 4, Kansas City 3, 10 innings				
Texas 8, L.A. Angels 7				
Oakland 6, Seattle 5, 10 innings				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
LOCAL SCORES				
WOMEN'S LEAGUE STANDINGS				
Green Team	4		0	
Basket Case	3		1	
Team 1	3		2	
Bon Faiyah	3		2	
Team	5		1	
Lady Eagles	0		5	

WHITE

From Page 28

the event delegate, while Saudi Arabia's Mansour Saeed Al-Ahmari, Chinese-Taipei's Chi Ming Jimmy Chan, Japan's Nobuo Hoshimoto, and Singapore's Swee Sung Mah were named commissioners.

The basketball competition in the inaugural Youth Olympic

Games draws 40 teams, 20 each in the men's and women's divisions. The women's division will have teams from Angola, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Korea, Mali, Russia, Singapore, the U.S., and Vanuatu. Competing in the men's division are Argentina, Central African Republic, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran,

Israel, Lithuania, New Zealand, Panama, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Serbia, Spain, South Africa, Turkey, the U.S., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Youth Olympics in Singapore will be White's second off-island assignment this year, as he is also expected to officiate games in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau first week of August.

Last year, White was a referee at the 2009 FIBA Women's U-19

World Championships in Bangkok, Thailand. He officiated the bronze medal game between Canada and eventual third placer Argentina. From Bangkok, he traveled to Sao Joao de Madeira, Portugal for the U16 European Championships Men's Division B and then he went to Madrid to observe the national teams of Portuguese Basketball Federation.

Team 5 earns first win in women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Team 5 broke into the win column after an 86-42 rout of the Lady Eagles during their game in the 2010 Marianas Variety Women's Basketball League on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Lalaine Pagarao led Team 1's first win in five games, firing 48 points and outscoring the entire Lady Eagles. She drilled 21 of his total points in the first quarter, lifting Team 5 to an early 31-10 advantage.

Team 5's lead never went down to 20 points from thereon, as Pagarao was all over the court, hitting layups, jumpers and undergoal stabs.

Nikita Hofschneider and Marie Javier also finished in double figures, adding 18 and 19, respectively.

The Lady Eagles completed the round-robin regular season winless in five games for a sixth-place finish in the team standings. Team 5 ended up in fifth place.

In the first game, Bon-Faiyah grabbed a share of third place with Team 1 after downing the latter, 75-51.

Micro Games baseball team meeting set



There will be a meeting among stakeholders in the CNMI National Baseball Team that will be competing in the upcoming 2010 Micronesian Games held in Palau.

The meeting is scheduled on Friday, May 21, at 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

All-Star selections for the 22-man CNMI National Baseball Team will be determined at the meeting with 18 of the spots presumed for on-island athletes and four other positions reserved for off-island players.

All Saipan Major League head coaches are invited to participate in picking players for team tasked to defend the Micro Games baseball championship the CNMI won in 2006 when the quadrennial event was held on Saipan.

The finals saw the CNMI All-Stars win their first gold medal for baseball after defeating favored Guam, 3-2.

Thousands of people were present at the Oleai Sports Complex in a standing-room only crowd to bear witness to the CNMI All-Stars' historic victory, which was revered as one of the biggest moments in Saipan sports history.

The 2010 Palau Micro Games will be held from Aug. 1 to 10, mostly in Palau's capital of Koror. (Walter J. Suthelrand)



Team 5's Nikita Hofschneider, left, pulls up for a jumper against a Lady Eagles defender during their game in the women's league on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Budweiser caging meeting today



Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is calling on representatives of interested teams to attend a meeting today for the 2010 Budweiser Basketball League.

The meeting is set for 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Only the first 10 teams to complete the requirements will be allowed to compete in the CNMI's premier cage league. Teams are allowed to have a maximum of 12 players in their roster. Entrance fee is only \$600 and each team will get a custom-made uniform set made by Island Apparel.

Expected to join this year's Budweiser caging is the CNMI National Team, which will use the league to prepare for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

Docomo Pacific took the championship in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League after outlasting Ol'Aces in the title match, 88-80, at the Garapan Basketball Court. Docomo had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals and clinched the title early with a victory in Game 1.

For more information about this year's Budweiser caging, contact Gabriel White at 234-6548 or via email: awaawaa@hotmail.com. (BANMI)

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Docomo Pacific's James Villacrusis, right, goes up for a layup against Ol'Aces' Freddie Pelisamen during last year's championship game in the Budweiser caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Larry DLG takes SGA May Ace



Deleon Guerrero

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Larry Deleon Guerrero earned a spot in the SGA Ace of the Aces after ruling the

Saipan Golfers Association May Ace Tournament played last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Deleon Guerrero, who won the SGA Ace of the Aces in 2007 and was runner-up in 2009, prevailed over 19 other SGA members for the battle for the monthly plum and the fifth ticket to the club's year-end event. The first four tickets went to Vince Rosario (January Ace), Ed Sablan (February), Mariano Fajardo (March) and Steve Jang (April). The SGA Ace of the Aces tournament features the 12 monthly winners of the association's regular tournament.

The 21-handicapper Deleon Guerrero secured the May title after carding a net 63, built on a 41 on the front and 43 on the back and birdies on the par-4 No. 6 and par-5 No. 11. Deleon Guerrero won by two strokes against Sablan, who drilled a net 65. Sablan, a 23-handicapper, shot a 43 and 45 on the front and back nines. Completing the Top 3 was Jess Castro, who tallied a net 67 after hitting birdies on the par-5 No. 9 and par-4 No. 18.

Also recording two birdies were Joe Demapan (No. 9 and 13), Jang (No. 1 and 3), and Nick Sablan (No. 9 and 14). Steve Balakrishna, Joe Deleon Guerrero, and Jung Teack hit one birdie each.

In the longest drive contest on the par-4, 16-handicap No. 7, Castro won, while Larry Deleon Guerrero prevailed in the par-5, 5-handicap No. 11.

In the greensies category, Balakrishna won on hole No. 6, Rick Kautz on No. 8, Rosario on No. 12, and Martin Sablan on No. 15.

Other SGA members who joined the monthly tournament with their net scores in parenthesis were Fajardo (68), Nobert Sablan (69), Nick Sablan (71), Balakrishna (71), Steve Jang (72), Jung (72), Joe Demapan (74), Ray San Nicolas (74), Rosario (75), Vicente Aldan (77), Kautz (78), Jose I. Sablan (78), John Cruz (80), Martin Sablan (81), John Babauta (83), Frank Rosario (84), Joe Deleon Guerrero (84).



Celtics top Magic,
take 2-0 lead
in East finals

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Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Financial aid for Micro Games in works



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMASA president Michael A. White, second right, and treasurer Ed Salas, right, listen to the questions of Rep. Ray Yumul during an informal meeting at the House of Representatives chamber yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Financial help will be available for the CNMI delegation to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, in his closing remarks during an informal meeting between delegation members and two Northern



Marianas Amateur Sports Association officials, said they will look into unobligated funds to help pay for the cost of the Commonwealth's participation to the quadrennial meet.

NMASA president Michael A. White during a presentation to some members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation said they are expect-

RELATED NEWS

Micro Games baseball team
meeting set

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ing to send 124 delegates to the Micro Games, bringing the total cost of the trip to \$132,060. The total amount covers airfare, per diem (\$30 a

day), parade uniforms, departure tax, and miscellaneous expenses or the estimated cost for each delegate is \$1,065.

Initially, NMASA arranged a payment scheme for the Micro Games, asking athletes/sports associations to pay \$700 of the total cost with the former shouldering \$250.

However, only tennis and triathlon have met the requirement. Other sports associations, especially

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Mexico, Honduras want recognition, too

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Obviously, the team to watch from the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football is the vastly improved United States, which finished second behind Brazil in the FIFA Confederations Cup South Africa 2009 and ended the 35-game winning streak of Spain.

Taking the back seat are Honduras and Mexico, but the two CONCACAF qualifiers to next month's 2010 FIFA World Cup want to be more than spectators in South Africa.

Stay on track

Mexico had a near ill-fated campaign in the World Cup qualifier when it finished second to the last in the second round. Then Javier Aguirre, also known as El Vasco, stepped in, replacing coach Sven Goran Eriksson and put the team back on track en route to a second place finish behind the U.S. in the CONCACAF qualifier and a stint to South Africa.

Aguirre and company kept



Blanco

the fire burning, winning their recent three friendly games, leading to South Africa.

In South Africa, Aguirre hopes his wards will stay on course to get past the Round 16, which did not happen in four of Mexico's five straight World Cup appearances.

Leading the Mexicans' realistic goal is the returning Cuauhtemoc Blanco, who scrapped his earlier plan of retirement to team up with young strikers Guillermo Ochoa, Efraim Juarez, Andres Guardado, Giovanni dos Santos, and

Rafael Marquez.

Mexico is in the tough Group A, which has former World Cup champions Uruguay and France, and hometown favorite South Africa. The Mexicans have never hoisted the gold trophy, as the best they could do in their first 13 World Cup appearance was made it to the quarterfinals in 1970 and 1986.

Mexico and Uruguay faced each other 17 times with Mexico having the edge, 7-3. They drew seven matches, but

See MEXICO on Page 26

Fashionably late Fielders take out Falcons, 8-7

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



After trailing for virtually the whole game, the Fielders rallied back to tie the game in the bottom of the sixth inning, held off the Falcons in the top of the seventh, and manufactured the winning run in the bottom half of the last inning en route to an 8-7 win Tuesday night in the 2010 Little League make-up game in the Big Division at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons' offense came early in the form of three runs in the top of the first.

Before scoring himself off a passed

See FASHIONABLY on Page 26



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Fielders pitcher Juan Maratita, right, allowed an earned run in six and 2/3 innings with six strikeouts, six hits, and a walk in their 8-7 win against the Falcons Tuesday night in the 2010 Saipan Little League Big Division make-up game at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

White selected to referee at Youth Olympics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI's Gabriel White be taking part in the historic inaugural Youth Olympics Games, as he is selected to officiate basketball games in the meet to be held in Singapore in August.

White, who earned his FIBA Referee badge a couple of years ago, was included among the 17 referees from around the world nominated to officiate match-

es in the men's and women's basketball competitions in the Youth Olympics Games that will run from Aug. 14 to 26. He is the lone referee from FIBA Oceania to be named in the pool.

Completing the list are France's Joseph Bissang, Mozambique's Naftal Candido



White

Chongo, Russia's Alexey Davydov, Brazil's Flavia Renata de Almeida, Belgium's Renaud Geller, Singapore's Pong Seng Goh, Cuba's Yudith Hodelin Mendoza, Turkey's Elif Inci, Korea's Bohuo Kim, Germany's Robert Lottermoser, Switzerland's David Musard, Spain's Emilio Perez, Uruguay's Alejandro Varela, the U.S.' Angelica Suffren, Japan's Yoko Tomita, and Serbia's Milija Vojinovic.

FIBA Sports Director Lubomir Kotleba will serve as

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